



MORE AMERICANS SEE MIDDLE CLASS STATUS SLIPPING

Page 6



CHILE'S 8.2 QUAKE RESULTS IN LITTLE DAMAGE, DEATH

Page 11

Aruba TODAY

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Krystina Cassidy and Dianna Simpson attempt to make contact with their husbands who are stationed inside Fort Hood, while standing outside of the Bernie Beck Gate, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Fort Hood, Texas. 4 persons were killed and 14 injured in a shooting Wednesday at Fort Hood, and officials at the base confirmed the shooter is among the dead.

(AP Photo/ Tamir Kalifa)

At Press Time:

Officials say 4 dead, 14 injured at Fort Hood

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP) — A gunman opened fire Wednesday at the U.S. Army's Fort Hood in an attack that left four dead, including the shooter, law

enforcement officials said. One of the officials, citing official internal Justice Department updates, said 14 others were hurt. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized

to release information by name. The Texas Army base was the scene of a mass shooting in 2009. Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded in what was the deadliest attack on a domestic

military installation in history. A U.S. law enforcement official said reports circulating within the Justice Department indicate the shooter died of what appears to be a self-inflicted wound. The official

spoke on the condition of anonymity because the investigation is still ongoing. The Army said on its official Twitter feed that the post was still on lockdown.

Continued on page 2

At Press Time: Officials: 4 dead, 14 injured at Fort Hood

Continued from Front

Injured people were being treated at the post's Carl R. Darnall Medical Center and other local hospitals. Outside the base, some relatives of soldiers waited for news about their loved ones.

Tayra DeHart, 33, said she had last heard from her husband, a soldier at the post, that he was safe, but that was hours earlier.

"The last two hours have been the most nerve-racking I've ever felt. I know God is here protecting me and all the soldiers, but I have my phone in my hand just hoping it will ring and it will be my husband,"

DeHart said.

In Chicago, President Barack Obama vowed that investigators will get to the bottom of the shooting, seeking to reassure the nation whose sense of security once again has been shaken by mass violence.

In a hastily arranged statement, Obama said he and his team were following the situation closely but that details about what happened at the sprawling Army post were still fluid. He said the shooting brought back painful memories of the 2009 attack.

Obama reflected on the sacrifices that troops stationed at Fort Hood have made — including during multiple tours to Iraq and

Afghanistan.

"They serve with valor, they serve with distinction and when they're at their home base, they need to feel safe," Obama said. "We don't yet know what happened tonight, but obviously that sense of safety has been broken once again."

The president spoke without notes or prepared remarks in the same room of a steakhouse where he had just met with about 25 donors at a previously scheduled fundraiser for the Democratic National Committee. White House officials quickly pushed tables to the side of the room to make room for Obama to speak to the nation.



President Barack Obama gives a statement on a mass shooting in Fort Hood, Texas, after arriving in Chicago for a Democratic National Committee event, April 2, 2014. "We're heartbroken something like this might have happened again," Obama said, while emphasizing that details were still scarce from the Army base in Texas where a soldier killed 13 people in 2009.

(Gabriella Demczuk/The New York Times)

Crews enter troubled nuclear dump

CARLSBAD, New Mexico (AP) — Crews made their first trip into the federal government's underground nuclear waste dump in southeastern New Mexico on Wednesday to begin investigating a radiation release in February that contaminated 21 workers, the U.S. Department of Energy said.

Two crews of eight made the initial descent into the half-mile deep Waste Isola-

tion Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, and no airborne radiation was detected, the agency said.

Officials called the entries a critical first step toward figuring out what caused the leak. But they said more expanded trips will be needed to continue the probe and assess the extent of damage.

The crews Wednesday established an underground operations base, installing

air monitors and communications lines, the agency said. Shipments to the dump were halted Feb. 5 after a truck hauling salt in the mine and repository caught fire. The dump was shuttered nine days later after the mysterious leak sent low levels of radiation into the air.

A series of safety shortcomings were cited by a team that investigated the truck fire. □

NATO General notes Russia is poised to invade Ukraine

MICHAEL R. GORDON

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BRUSSELS - NATO's top commander said Wednesday that the 40,000 troops Russia has within striking distance of Ukraine are poised to attack on 12 hours' notice and could accomplish their military objectives within three to five days.

President Vladimir Putin of Russia told Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany on Monday that the Kremlin was beginning to withdraw troops from the border area near Ukraine.

But the NATO commander, Gen. Philip M. Breedlove, said in an interview with The New York Times that so far only a single battalion, a force of 400 to 500 troops, is on the move and that NATO intelligence could not say whether it was actually being withdrawn.

"What we can say now is that we do see a battalion size unit moving, but what we can't confirm is that it is leaving the battlefield," said Breedlove, of the U.S. Air Force. "Whether that movement is apt to a less belligerent configuration or returning to barracks, we do not see that."

Breedlove said the Russian force that remains is a potent mix of warplanes, helicopter units, artillery, infantry and commandos with field hospitals and sufficient logistics to sustain an incursion into Ukraine.

"We believe that it can move within 12 hours," he said. "Essentially the force is ready to go. We believe it could accomplish its objective between three to five days," he said.

Breedlove said the Russian presence might be intended as a "coercive force" during the West's talks with Russia about Ukraine's future and as Ukraine prepares for a presidential election in late May.

If the Kremlin decides to intervene militarily, Breedlove added, the force could be used to establish a land link to Crimea, the peninsula in southern Ukraine that Russia annexed last month, so that it does not have to supply it by sea. The Russian force is also capable, he said, of carrying out a thrust to Odessa, moving to Transnistria, the Russian enclave in Moldova, or intervening in areas in eastern Ukraine.

"I think they have all the opportunities and they can make whatever decision they want," Breedlove added. "This is a very large, very well-equipped force to be called an exercise."

In January, the United States informed NATO allies that Russia had tested a ground-launched cruise missile, raising serious questions about Moscow's compliance with its arms control obligations.

U.S. officials have sought without success to resolve the issue with the Russians, and the Obama administration is reviewing whether to formally declare the test to be a violation of a 1987 treaty that bans medium-range missiles.

While making it clear that he was not prejudging the outcome of that review, Breedlove described the Russia missile test as a militarily significant development. "A weapon capability that violates the INF, that is introduced into the greater European land mass is absolutely a tool that will have to be dealt with," he said, using the initials of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty.

"I would not judge how the alliance will choose to react, but I would say they will have to consider what to do about it," he said. "It can't go unanswered."

Breedlove said he did not know if the Russians had deployed the cruise missile, adding that this would be hard to determine since it resembles permitted short-range systems. □

General Motors Chief Faces Harsher Tone at Second Hearing

BILL VLASIC

MATTHEW L. WALD

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Soon after General Motors' chief executive, Mary T. Barra, took her seat Wednesday before a Senate panel to answer questions about the company's decadelong failure to fix a faulty switch linked to 13 deaths, she received a blunt message of what was to come.

The company, Sen. Claire McCaskill said, had a "culture of cover-up" that allowed an employee to lie under oath and discouraged quick action on fixing the defect. She also questioned whether the company had changed its ways, as Barra has said, since emerging from bankruptcy in 2009.

It took nine months, McCaskill said, before GM took any action once it was confronted in April 2013 with evidence in a lawsuit that the switch had quietly been changed sometime in 2006.

And she was plain in characterizing the actions of a GM engineer, Ray DeGiorio, who had testified in a court case that he knew nothing about the change in the switch.

On Tuesday, the House committee presented a document showing he had signed off on it.

"He lied," said McCaskill, a Missouri Democrat and the panel's chairwoman.

And she said the problem was with GM, for "a culture that allowed an engineer at GM to lie under oath, repeatedly lie under oath." Wednesday's hearing had many of the same trappings as Tuesday's hearing before a House panel, with the families of victims filling the room to capacity, holding pictures of their lost children. Barra was again measured in her responses, but the hearing had a much harsher tone, as senators more aggressively questioned Barra's contention that the cars are safe to drive and doubted her statement that the company had moved from a culture of cost-cutting to one of safety and a focus

on the consumer.

"If this is the new GM leadership, it's pretty lacking," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., later adding, "The culture that you are representing today is a culture of the status quo."

Barra was inundated with questions about the legality of GM's behavior, particularly whether the com-

pany intentionally withheld documents from lawyers representing families suing the automaker. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., said he expected the company to come under intense scrutiny by investigators from the Justice Department.

"GM has a real exposure to criminal liability," Blumen-

thal said. "I think it's likely that GM will face prosecution."

Barra's prepared opening remarks were identical to those she gave Tuesday to a House subcommittee investigating the events leading up to GM's recent recall of 2.6 million small cars, many of them Chevrolet Cobalts.

She said the company was still not sure why it took more than 10 years to recall cars equipped with a switch that can accidentally cut off engine power and disable air bags.

"When we have answers, we will be fully transparent with you, with our regulators, and with our customers," Barra said.

Barra, as well as the nation's top auto-safety regulator, David J. Friedman, was testifying before the consumer protection subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Her appearance followed an often tense, two-hour grilling Tuesday by a subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

The House hearing produced several examples of GM's inaction on the faulty switches that Barra called "disturbing" and "unacceptable."

The models that GM has recalled since February because of a flawed ignition system have been tied to 13 deaths.

Barra repeatedly said she could not explain why the automaker failed repeatedly to recall the vehicles sooner. □



Mary Barra, chief executive of General Motors, testifies during a Commerce, Science, and Transportation subcommittee hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington, April 2, 2014. During the hearing, Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-Mo.) said the company had a "culture of cover-up" that allowed an employee to lie under oath and discouraged quick action on fixing a car defect linked to 13 deaths. (Doug Mills/The New York Times)

2 senators clear way for CIA detention reports

MARK MAZZETTI

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WASHINGTON - Two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee on Wednesday announced their support for declassifying parts of a long-delayed report on the CIA's defunct detention and interrogation program, all but assuring that the committee will approve the report and send it to President Barack Obama for eventual release. The announcement by Maine's two senators - Susan Collins, a Republican, and Angus King, an independent - effectively ended any suspense about whether the committee's chairwoman, Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., will have enough votes to declass-

sify the report's conclusions and executive summary, which are said to comprise about 400 pages of the 6,300-page report. The committee's other Republicans oppose the conclusions of the report, but support from Collins and King for releasing the report will give a veneer of bipartisanship to the committee's vote. The vote on the report, scheduled for Thursday afternoon, will bring at least partial closure to the years of partisan jousting on the committee about the report, which sets out to tell the history of what is perhaps the most controversial response by the Bush administration to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. People who have read the

report say it is unsparing in its criticism of the CIA's brutal interrogation methods, and makes the case that the spy agency repeatedly misled Congress, the White House and the public about the value of the program.

Feinstein has said that when the committee approves the report she will send it directly to the White House for declassification. Obama has said he supports the report's public release, but it is uncertain how long the declassification process could take. In their announcement, the two senators said the report's findings "lead us to conclude that some detainees were subjected to techniques that constitut-

ed torture" and raise "serious concerns about the CIA's management" of the detention program, which Obama ended in 2009.

But the two senators also challenged the way the report was compiled, criticizing it for not incorporating the views of either CIA or other executive branch officials. It is partly for this reason that Republican members of the committee have called the report a one-sided attempt to smear the CIA and the Bush administration.

The committee is also expected Thursday to vote to declassify both the Republican dissent from the report's conclusions as well as the CIA's response to the detention investigation. □

Appeals court says 1 Texas execution back on schedule

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — A federal appeals court on Wednesday threw out a ruling requiring the Texas prison system to disclose more information about where it gets lethal-injection drugs, reversing a judge who had halted an upcoming execution.

Only hours before the appellate decision, a lower-court judge issued a temporary injunction halting the execution of Tommy Lynn Sells, a convicted serial killer who was set to die Thursday.

The case originally included Ramiro Hernandez-Llanas, another inmate scheduled to be put to death next week. But the appellate ruling affected only Sells.

The appeals court said it would take up Hernandez-Llanas' case at a later date.

Texas officials have insisted the identity of the drug supplier must be kept secret to protect the company from threats of violence and that the stock of the sedative pentobarbital falls within the acceptable ranges of potency.

Defense attorneys say they must have the name of the supplier so they can verify the quality of the drug and spare condemned inmates from unconstitutional pain and suffering.

In the lower court ruling, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore ordered the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to provide defense attorneys with details about the supplier and how the drug was tested.

Lawyers for the state appealed to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans, saying the arguments from the inmates' attorneys "are nothing more than a calculated attempt to postpone their executions."

Last month, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected similar arguments about execution secrecy in a Missouri case, and the condemned prisoner was put to death. The 5th Circuit reversed Gilmore's ruling before attorneys for the inmates had filed a brief opposing the state's appeal. The court said if Texas was using a drug never used before for executions or a completely new drug whose efficiency or science was unknown, "the case might be different."

But the panel said the prisoners' lawyers were speculating the new pentobarbital "may be different and may cause a risk of severe pain."

"Speculation is not enough," they said.

Maurie Levin, an attorney for the inmates, said Sells' case would be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. Gilmore's ruling "honors the importance of transparency in the execution process," she said. "And the order makes it clear this last-minute litigation and stays of execution would not be necessary if (the prison agency) had not ignored the rule of law and tried to shield this information from the public and the light of day."

Texas prisons spokesman Robert Hurst said the agency had no comment because the matter was still in court.

Since obtaining a new supply of pentobarbital two weeks ago, the Department of Criminal Justice had cited unspecified security concerns in refusing to disclose the source and other details about the drug.

"As a result, the state's secrecy regarding the product to be used for lethal injection has precluded (the inmates and their attorneys) from evaluating or challenging the constitutionality of the method of execution," Gilmore wrote in a five-page opinion. □

Supreme court: Donation limits eased

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court struck down some limits Wednesday on campaign contributions, creating the potential for big donors to play an even greater role in U.S. congressional and presidential campaigns.

The narrowly divided court rejected a ceiling, now set at \$123,200, on overall contributions to candidates, parties and political action committees over a two-year period. But the impact of this ruling is limited because it does not

Roberts, a conservative, said the aggregate limits do not act to prevent corruption, the rationale the court has upheld as justifying contribution limits. He said it intrudes on citizens' free-speech rights.

Justice Stephen Breyer, writing for the liberal dissenters, said that the court's conservatives had "eviscerated our nation's campaign finance laws" through Wednesday's ruling and the 2010 decision, known as *Citizens United*.

"If the court in *Citizens United* opened a door, today's decision we fear will

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called the Supreme Court decision "an important first step toward restoring the voice of candidates and party committees and a vindication for all those who support robust, transparent political discourse." Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York said, "This in itself is a small step, but another step on the road to ruin."

Congress enacted the limits in the wake of the 1970s Watergate scandal which led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon.



Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., right, followed by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I. leave a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 2, 2014, where they talked about the Supreme Court decision in the *McCutcheon vs. FEC* case, in which the Court struck down limits in federal law on the aggregate campaign contributions individual donors may make to candidates, political parties, and political action committees.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

undermine restrictions on contributions to individual candidates, now set at \$2,600 per candidate, per election.

Still, the ruling further erodes restrictions put in place to reduce the influence of big spenders on U.S. politics. It follows a major 2010 case that lifted limits on independent spending by corporations and unions. Under that ruling, big donors have been able to work around the restrictions by going outside the campaign regulatory system and spending an unlimited amount of money on attack ads.

The 5-4 ruling split the court's liberal and conservative justices. Chief Justice John

open a floodgate," Breyer said in comments from the bench. "It understates the importance of protecting the political integrity of our governmental institution."

Reaction to the ruling generally followed party lines, with advocates of capping money in politics aligned with Democrats in opposition to the decision.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest says the Obama administration is still reviewing the details of Wednesday's decision. But he noted that the solicitor general, which argues the administration's positions before the court, had defended the constitutionality of the previous limits.

They were intended to discourage big contributors from trying to buy votes with their donations and to restore public confidence in the campaign finance system.

But in a series of rulings in recent years, the Roberts court has struck down provisions of federal law aimed at limiting the influence of big donors as unconstitutional curbs on free speech rights.

Most notably, the *Citizens United* case freed corporations and labor unions to spend as much as they wish on campaign advocacy, as long as it is independent of candidates and their campaigns. □

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Artist plants fake Bieber CDs in LA stores

DERRIK J. LANG

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An artist is making it difficult to believe there's actually a copy of Justin Bieber's latest album for sale in Los Angeles.

Paz Dylan, a 25-year-old electronic musician and artist known only as Paz, says he planted 5,000 copies of an album that appears to be Bieber's "Believe" but actually contains a copy of Dylan's own CD. The fakes appeared at retailers such as Best Buy, Target and Wal-Mart on Tuesday, April Fools' Day.

"We were meticulous," said Paz, who fancies the stunt as more of a performance art piece than a gag. "We paid a lot of attention to detail because we wanted these to stay up on shelves as long as possible."

The wrapped CDs resemble "Believe" right down to the bar code and silky Bieber portrait on the cover. However, Paz's artwork is on the inside of the back cover, and the disc itself is slathered with images of cats, pizzas and a dog stuffed inside a taco.

The CD itself contains the 13 tracks from Paz's synth-heavy independent release "From the Bottom of My Heart to the Top of Your Lungs."

The only differentiating factor is that Paz's subversive CD package lacks the kind of sticker that usually covers the top of a CD case, which is found beneath the wrapper of most unopened albums.

The Associated Press independently verified the stunt by purchasing random copies of what looked like Bieber's "Believe" from widely scattered Los Angeles-area locations such as a Wal-Mart in Baldwin

Hills, Target in Burbank and Best Buy stores in West Hollywood and Culver City.

In each instance, the CDs were scanned and paid for as if they were Bieber CDs. But when they were opened outside the store, each contained a copy of Paz's album, not Bieber's.

"Although Mr. Dylan is clearly not a Belieber, we know that many of our customers are, and we are taking care of those who didn't get what they intended to purchase," said Best Buy spokeswoman Carly Morris.

Target spokesman Evan Lapiska said the company was aware of the claim and was investigating the matter, while Wal-Mart spokeswoman Sarah McK-



In this image an album that appears to be Justin Bieber's "Believe" sits on the rack at the Best Buy in Culver City, Calif., Tuesday April 1, 2014. Paz, whose full name is Paz Dylan, a 25-year-old electronic musician and artist, says he's planted 5,000 copies of an album that appears to be Bieber's "Believe" but that actually contains a copy of his own CD in retailers such as Best Buy, Walmart and Target on April Fool's Day. This album turned out to be a copy of Paz's own CD.

(AP Photo/Derrick J. Lang)

inney said customers could return the CD for a full refund or the real version.

"We know that every great artist wants to get on the shelf at Wal-Mart, but there's a right way to do it," said McKinney. "All of our L.A. stores are making an extra effort to ensure this faux Bieber CD is removed." A message left for Bieber's spokeswoman wasn't immediately returned. Why did Paz replace Bieber and not some other performer's CD?

"The world won't really miss a Justin Bieber record," said Paz.

Paz said he wanted to use big-box retailers as his artistic canvas by "droplifting" his music into the hands of consumers. □

Evaluation set for World Trade Center climber

VERENA DOBNIK

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A teenager who sneaked to the top of the tallest building in the U.S., 1 World Trade Center, will be assessed in a program for youthful offenders, a judge said Wednesday.

Sixteen-year-old Justin Casquejo is charged with criminal trespass and BASE jumping, a reference to his alleged movements around the unfinished building. Both charges are misdemeanors.

Casquejo was arrested last month after slipping through a hole in the fence surrounding the 104-story skyscraper in the early morning and taking an elevator to the spire. He climbed the stairs to the rooftop, then used a ladder to reach the peak of the antenna.

Authorities said he slipped through dressed like a construction worker and took



Justin Casquejo arrives for his court date in New York, Wednesday, April 2, 2014. The 16-year-old boy described as a thrill-seeker bypassed an inattentive security guard in the middle of the night and climbed a ladder to the spire of 1 World Trade Center, where he apparently took pictures, authorities said.

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

photographs from the top. The skyscraper was built to replace the twin towers

destroyed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which

owns the trade center site, is reassessing security there after two lapses in recent months. □

More Americans see middle class status slipping

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A sense of belonging to the middle class occupies a cherished place in America. It conjures images of self-sufficient people with stable jobs and pleasant homes working toward prosperity. Yet nearly five years after the Great Recession ended, more people are coming to the painful realization that they're no longer part of it.

According to Gallup, the percentage of Americans who say they're middle or upper-middle class fell 8 points between 2008 and 2012, to 55 percent. And the most recent General Social Survey, conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, found that the vast proportion of Americans who call themselves middle or working class, though still high at 88 percent, is the lowest in the survey's 40-year history. It's fallen 4 percent-

sas can feel far different in Connecticut. People with substantial incomes often identify as middle class if they live in urban centers with costly food, housing and transportation. In any case, individuals and families who feel they've slipped from the middle class are likely to spend and borrow less. Such a pullback, in turn, squeezes the economy, which is fueled mainly by consumer spending. "How they think is reflected

band earned a combined \$80,000. She considered herself solidly middle class. The couple and their four children regularly vacationed at a lake near their home in Saginaw, Michigan. But in August 2012, Feldotte was laid off from her job as a special education teacher. She's since managed to find only part-time teaching work. Though her husband still works as a truck salesman, their income has sunk by more



Delegates watch as former President Bill Clinton addresses the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, N.C. Since 2008, the number of people who call themselves middle class has fallen by a fifth, according to a survey in January 2014 by the Pew Research Center, from 53 percent to 44 percent. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong)

They are former professionals now stocking shelves at grocery stores, retirees struggling with rising costs and people working part-time jobs but desperate for full-time pay. Such setbacks have emerged in economic statistics for several years. Now they're affecting how Americans think of themselves. Since 2008, the number of Americans who call themselves middle class has fallen by nearly a fifth, according to a survey in January by the Pew Research Center, from 53 percent to 44 percent. Forty percent now identify as either lower-middle or lower class compared with just 25 percent in February 2008.

age points since the recession began in 2007. The trend reflects a widening gap between the richest Americans and everyone else, one that's emerged gradually over decades and accelerated with the Great Recession. The difference between the income earned by the wealthiest 5 percent of Americans and by a median-income household has risen 24 percent in 30 years, according to the Census Bureau. Whether or not people see themselves as middle class, there's no agreed-upon definition of the term. In part, it's a state of mind. Incomes or lifestyles that feel middle class in Kan-

in how they act," said Richard Morin, a senior editor at the Pew Research Center. People are generally slow to acknowledge downward mobility. Many regard themselves as middle class even if their incomes fall well above or below the average. Experts say the rise in Americans who feel they've slipped below the middle class suggests something deeply rooted. More people now think "it's harder to achieve" the American dream than thought so several decades ago, said Mark Rank, a sociology professor at Washington University in St. Louis. Three years ago, Kristina Feldotte, 47, and her hus-

band earned a combined \$80,000. She considered herself solidly middle class. The couple and their four children regularly vacationed at a lake near their home in Saginaw, Michigan. But in August 2012, Feldotte was laid off from her job as a special education teacher. She's since managed to find only part-time teaching work. Though her husband still works as a truck salesman, their income has sunk by more than half to \$36,000. "Now we're on the upper end of lower class," Feldotte said. Americans' self-perception coincides with data documenting a shrinking middle class: The percentage of households with income within 50 percent of the median — one way to define a broad middle class — fell from 50 percent in 1970 to 42 percent in 2010. The Pew survey didn't ask respondents to specify their income. Still, Pew has found in the past that people who call themselves middle class generally fit the broad definitions that economists use.

Continued on Page 27

SURVEY

US companies add 191K jobs during March

PAUL WISEMAN

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A private survey shows that U.S. companies increased hiring at a healthy pace in March, suggesting that the jobs market is recovering from a brutal winter.

Payroll processor ADP says private employers added 191,000 jobs last month. ADP also revised February's job creation up to 153,000 from an originally reported 139,000.

The construction industry added 20,000 jobs in March, up from an average 16,000 the previous three months. Financial firms added 5,000 jobs, the most since November. Hiring was healthy across most industries and businesses of different sizes.

The numbers suggest that the government's jobs report for March, to be released Friday, will show stronger hiring. Economists forecast the government will report that employers added 195,000 jobs last month. That would be the strongest one-month gain since November.

The ADP numbers cover only private businesses and often diverge from the government's more comprehensive report.

The economy appears to be gaining some momentum after an unusually cold and snowy winter. On Tuesday, the Institute for Supply Management, a group of purchasing managers, reported that U.S. manufacturing grew at a slightly faster pace last month as factory output bounced back from disruptions caused by severe winter weather.

U.S. auto sales rose 6 percent to 1.5 million vehicles last month, far outpacing analysts' expectations. The sales pace was the fastest since November, according to Autodata Corp.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, which prepares the ADP numbers, said the hiring last month was "very consistent with the kind of job growth we were getting before the winter months and is suggestive of economic growth of somewhere around 3 percent" at an annual rate. The economy grew a sluggish 1.9 percent last year. □



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US Financial Front:

American factory orders rebound 1.6% in February

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories rose in February after two months of declines but a critical category that signals business investment plans fell.

Factory orders rose 1.6 percent in February, the most in five months, following declines of 1 percent in January and 2 percent in December, the Commerce Department reported Wednesday. The February gain reflected a rebound in orders for commercial aircraft and autos. Orders in both categories had fallen for two consecutive months before rebounding in February.

But demand for core capital goods, considered a good guide to business investment plans, fell 1.4 percent in February, the second decline in three months.

Many economists say that was due in part to the severe winter, which caused businesses to postpone plans to expand or modernize their operations.

In February, demand for durable goods, items expected to last at least three years, rose 2.2 percent, matching a preliminary estimate last week. Orders for nondurable goods such as chemicals, paper and food rose 1 percent following a 0.7 percent drop in January.

Demand for commercial aircraft rose 13.4 percent while orders for motor vehicles and parts increase 3 percent. Orders for primary metals such as steel increased 1.7 percent while orders for computers soared 64.2 percent, rebounding from a 48.2 percent drop in January. Orders for machinery fell

1.2 percent with demand for construction equipment and mining and oil field equipment both down.

Economists believe that unusually severe weather depressed activity in the winter. They are looking for a

rebound in orders and production in coming months as the weather improves.

Some encouraging signs include reports that U.S. manufacturing grew at a slightly faster rate in March compared with February.

And automakers reported Tuesday that sales rose 6 percent in March, far outpacing analysts' expectations.

The Institute for Supply Management reported Tuesday that its manufacturing

index increased to 53.7 in March, up from 53.2 in February. Any reading above 50 indicates expansion.

That rise was viewed as evidence that factories are recovering from disruptions caused by the severe winter. Manufacturing activity had plunged in January as snow storms shut down factories and disrupted supply shipments. It rebounded slightly in February as measured by the ISM index.

The Federal Reserve's report on factory production showed the biggest increase in output in six months in February as factories cranked out more cars, home electronics and chemicals.

Analysts expect overall economic growth slowed to between 1.5 percent and 2 percent in the first three months of this year, reflecting weather disruptions and efforts by businesses to work down unwanted stockpiles. But economists are looking for a sharp rebound in growth to around 3 percent for the rest of the year. □



Crates containing engine and transmission parts sit on shelves at Volvo Trucks' powertrain manufacturing facility in Hagerstown, Md. The Commerce Department released upbeat factory orders for February, on Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

(AP Photo/Patrick Semansky)

Global growth drives Monsanto's 2Q higher

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Monsanto's second-quarter earnings jumped 13 percent on strength from its core seeds and traits business.

The agriculture products company topped Wall Street expectations for both profit and revenue, sending shares higher before the opening bell Wednesday.

Monsanto earned \$1.67 billion, or \$3.15 per share, 7 cents better than what analysts polled by FactSet had projected. A year ago, the company earned \$1.48 billion, or \$2.73 per share.

The performance was particularly strong, given the slow start to a quarter in which winter storms delayed shipments.

Chairman and CEO Hugh Grant said that almost 80 percent of Monsanto's quarterly growth came from its core seeds and traits business.

Revenue climbed 7 percent to \$5.83 billion, just edging out Wall Street projections.

The expansion of the company's global corn and soybean businesses drove sales throughout the most

recent quarter.

Monsanto Co. has dominated the bioengineered-seed business for years and recently began expanding its footprint in emerging markets like Argentina, Brazil and parts of Asia.

While the vast majority of Monsanto's business comes from genetically enhanced seeds and herbicide, the company is also making investments in computerized tools for the agricultural sector.

Last quarter the company announced a new agreement with U.S. agricultural

distributor WinField to explore collaborations on agriculture-based information technology. And in October, it spent \$930 million to acquire the Climate Corporation, a Silicon Valley startup that uses weather forecasting and data analysis to increase harvest yields.

The St. Louis company reaffirmed its 2014 forecast for earnings of \$5 to \$5.20 per share. Wall Street is looking for \$5.24 per share.

Shares of Monsanto added 86 cents to \$114.85 before the market opened. □

Barriers Wall Off the Facts of GM Car Crashes

**RACHEL ABRAMS
DANIELLE IVORY**

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There is anger that General Motors did not come forward sooner with information about its faulty cars. There is grief that loved ones were lost in crashes that might have been preventable. And there is outrage that federal safety regulators did not intervene.

But what is now most upsetting to many relatives of people killed in accidents involving recalled GM cars is the uncertainty and secrecy surrounding the crashes - the fact that GM won't tell them what they most want to know.

Not only has GM twice adjusted the number of deaths it says are linked to an ignition switch defect, but it has also refused to disclose publicly the list of the confirmed victims, now said to be 13. The enduring mystery has left scores of grieving families playing a guessing game, including the relatives of one accident victim, identified by The New York Times and confirmed by the office of Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., to be among the 13. "Why do you think GM has not contacted us? It's not like they don't know where we live," said Cathy Sachse, whose mother-in-law was killed in 2009 while driving a Saturn Ion in Missouri. "Trust me, we have been haunted for five years not knowing what happened to her."

The Times identified Marie Sachse, who was 81 at the time of her death, from an analysis of federal crash data, which is based on police reports and claims that automakers report to the government that blame vehicle defects for serious injuries or deaths. Presented with the crash details, the senator's office, in an email, said it had confirmed the specifics with both GM and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, but had not been given Sachse's name. A spokesman for GM would not say why the company had not contacted the Sachse family. "We are not providing comment on

specific incidences," Greg Martin, a spokesman for GM, said in an email. "We continue to express our deep regret and sympathy for all who have been affected by the ignition switch recall."



Melody Backus stands at the scene where her son, Ryan, had a fatal car crash while driving his Chevy Cobalt, in February 2006, in Oconomowoc, Wis., March 26, 2014. The Backuses are one of many families who have been left wondering by General Motors' secrecy about an ignition defect in some of its cars and whether their loved one's death was a result of the defect.

(Nathan Weber/The New York Times)

As families revisit old wounds in search of answers, the Sachse case not only illustrates the frustration of GM's wall of silence, but also the difficulty in challenging the automaker. Relatives and their lawyers are running up against a technological reality beyond GM's narrow definition of victims: Because many of the cars and their so-called black boxes were damaged or destroyed, there may not be enough evidence left from the crashes to prove what happened.

Data from the black box, a term used to describe a data sensor in the car, can tell investigators about the last milliseconds of a motorist's life. The sensor can record the car's speed, the intensity of an impact and other measures that are used in deploying the air bags.

But the system cannot definitively answer every question. It starts recording data only when it senses an impact, for example, and it can stop recording if the car shuts off. If that happens, the data may reflect

the initial impact, but subsequent impacts - as when a car rolls over - might not register. In the end, without additional evidence, it might be impossible to use the data to prove the ignition turned off and the air

"It may well be that the ignition was the problem on that car, but you can't prove it from this data," said Rusty Haight, an expert in crash data analysis and director of the Collision Safety Institute, who re-

with an ignition switch or a driver can be extremely difficult - and will most likely be at the center of countless legal battles over the coming months and years. Lance Cooper, a lawyer, represented the family of a Cobalt driver, Jennifer Brooke Melton of Georgia, who died in a crash four years ago after her car's power cut out. Four days before she was killed, Melton had taken her car in for service because the engine shut off while she was driving. Melton's family reached a settlement with GM.

Mary T. Barra, the automaker's chief executive, testified on Tuesday before a House subcommittee that GM did not count the death of Melton among the 13 because her car received a side impact. Only head-on crashes, GM has said, would definitely set off air bag deployment - or signal a failure to deploy.

"If your photographs and your black box data don't give you enough to say, 'Yes, the air bags should have deployed,' those are the kind of cases that may be difficult to pursue, even if you have some evidence," said Cooper, who is now representing plaintiffs in a class-action lawsuit against GM.

Ryan Backus, 29, was driving along a highway in rural Wisconsin eight years ago, the kind surrounded by farms and fields and not much else, on his way home from a friend's wedding. His Cobalt veered off the road and up an embankment, and flipped multiple times before throwing him out onto the winter grass.

There was no open coffin. The funeral home exposed only a small part of his arm so his parents could see him when they said goodbye. Elements of his death remain a mystery. Backus had been drinking, and he had been speeding, according to the police report and data from his car.

But despite the impact, the air bags never deployed. Even stranger, the Cobalt had completely shut off by the time it stopped rolling over. □

bags did not deploy - two of the main criteria GM has used to identify victims.

General Motors settled a claim with the Sachses in 2011, long before it publicly disclosed the ignition de-

viewed photographs and data from the accident for The Times.

The Sachses' lawyer hired Chris Caruso, a safety consultant who worked on GM air bags as an engineer for



In an undated handout photo, Ryan Backus, who died in a car crash while driving his Chevy Cobalt in February 2006.

(Handout via The New York Times)

fect. But the family's lawyer, Jim Dowd, said that the data GM pulled from the car and provided to the family did not appear to show a severe accident. In fact, GM never told the family that the air bags failed to deploy, the Sachses said.

nearly 21 years before retiring in 2006, to inspect the data, the car and other evidence after the accident. "Because I designed the system, I know the air bags should have fired," Caruso said.

Under such circumstances, proving whether blame lies

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U.N. chief urging action on Central African Republic

JUERGEN BAETZ
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged European and African nations on Wednesday to step up their efforts to end the desperate plight of the people of Central African Republic. Speaking on the sidelines of a summit meant to promote closer economic ties, Ban appealed to some 70 European and African leaders in Brussels to support more robust action.

"We must act quickly to stop the killings, protect the civilian population and prevent a further separation of communities," Ban said. "It is our collective responsibility to respond," he added. Hatred toward a now deposed-government of Muslim rebels in the country ignited bitter violence between Muslims and Christians. What started as political disputes have become increasingly sectarian, with mosques set ablaze, Qurans destroyed and Muslims killed. Tens of thousands have fled to neighboring countries.

"Genocide was avoided in large measure because of the mass exodus of minorities to areas where they felt they were safe," Ban said. The 28-nation EU decided in February to back a French military operation aimed at stopping the sectarian violence. The arrival of the EU contingent of an expected 1,000 troops plus medical and support teams would allow the about 2,000 French troops already there to conduct wider military operations outside the capital, Bangui. □

Bomber kills 6 at Interior Ministry in Kabul

ROD NORDLAND
HABIB ZAHORI
© 2014 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan - A suicide bomber killed six policemen after detonating his explosives-packed vest at the entrance gates of the Interior Ministry headquarters Wednesday, penetrating nearly to the heart of the Afghan security es-

tablishment.

Wearing a military uniform, the attacker got through two security checkpoints. At the third one, in front of the gates, he set off an explosive amid a group of policemen heading into work at the ministry, which is in charge of Afghanistan's police forces. The headquarters is on a heav-

ily guarded street that is also home to several Western embassies.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, and said hundreds of Afghan policemen had been killed or wounded.

The bombing came after a series of attacks in the capital on foreign targets, as well as two on election

facilities, in recent weeks, amid heavy security in preparation for Saturday's presidential election.

The authorities have closed down at least two guesthouses and 11 restaurants frequented by foreigners in an apparent attempt to prevent further attacks on expatriates working here, according to owners of the establishments. However, the spokesman for President Hamid Karzai, Aimal Faizi, on Wednesday strenuously denied that authorities had closed any restaurants out of fear for foreigners' safety.

The only closing, Faizi said, was of the Gandamak Lodge, a guesthouse and restaurant, which was ordered shut Tuesday by government intelligence agents of the National Directorate of Security. The manager of the lodge said he had been told it was for security until after the elections. Faizi said the president's national security council had decided to order the Gandamak closed because of intelligence it received about the guesthouse. □



An Afghan police officer stands guard on a street near the scene of a suicide bomb attack at the Interior Ministry headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, April 2, 2014. The attacker killed six policemen after detonating his explosive vest at the entrance gates of the ministry on Wednesday, penetrating nearly to the heart of the Afghan security establishment.

(Bryan Denton/The New York Times)

1 Killed in bombings near Cairo University

KAREEM FAHIM
© 2014 New York Times

CAIRO - Several explosive devices were detonated near the campus of Cairo University on Wednesday morning, killing a senior police official and wounding several officers in the first major attack in the capital since Egypt's presidential campaign started just days ago.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the bombings, at

least one of which was captured by television cameras recording the aftermath of the earlier explosions. Retaliatory attacks on Egyptian security personnel have become commonplace over the past seven months, as the government has pursued a sweeping crackdown on Islamist supporters of Egypt's last elected president, Mohammed Morsi, who was removed by the military in July.

As the prime minister called an emergency Cabinet meeting, the bombings heightened fears that militants will intensify their attacks in the hopes of disrupting the presidential campaign, which got underway two days ago. The leading candidate, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, led the military ouster of Morsi and presided over the crackdown on his Islamist supporters that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of pro-

testers and the arrests of thousands of other people. The explosions Wednesday also appeared to signal an intensification of the violence on university campuses, which have become a focal point of anti-government unrest and the site of daily demonstrations in recent weeks.

Hundreds of students have been arrested at protests, and in recent days, two students were killed during clashes with riot officers. □

French leader approves new Cabinet

ALISSA J. RUBIN
SCOTT SAYARE

© 2014 New York Times

PARIS - President François Hollande of France approved a new Cabinet on Wednesday, putting some high-profile figures - including Ségolène Royal, his former partner - in key positions, but sending mixed messages about his plans for France's troubled economy.

The lack of clarity has worried European Union policymakers, who have watched France's faltering economy with trepidation, in part because Hollande has resisted deeper structural changes.

With his ministerial appointments, Hollande appeared to be trying to satisfy more leftist factions within his So-

cialist Party as well as the European Commission, which has called for spending cuts and reform of the rigid labor market.

In remarks Monday - one day after his party suffered widespread losses in local elections across France - he made more promises to cut taxes, saying he would reduce the burden not only on corporations, but also on low-paid workers.

And he underscored anew his intent to preserve France's generous social payments.

"It's not about making savings just for the sake of making savings," Hollande said in his televised address. "It's about preserving our social model."

EU officials viewed Hollande's remarks warily, see-

ing in them a suggestion that France would seek a further delay in its commitment to bring its budget deficit under the 3 percent of gross domestic product required under EU rules.

The government reorganization began Monday with the appointment of Interior Minister Manuel Valls as prime minister, succeeding Jean-Marc Ayrault. On Wednesday, Royal was named environment and energy minister, and Arnaud Montebourg minister of the economy.

Montebourg, whose economic ideas have enjoyed populist appeal, is known for jousting - with mixed results - with foreign investors and companies he viewed as daring to criticize the French labor system. □

An emotional Pistorius may soon take the stand at trial

SARAH LYALL

© 2014 New York Times

PRETORIA, South Africa - Listening to the prosecution lay out its case against him at his murder trial over the past month, Oscar Pistorius could not keep silent, or still. He sobbed, prayed, threw up, buried his face in his hands and covered his ears, a response to the graphic and upsetting evidence, and, perhaps, to the grim reality of his own changed circumstances. But through all the testimony - about the lethally expanding bullets he kept in his gun; about the horrific wounds suffered by the victim, his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp; about his own mercurial temperament, obsession with firearms and irrationally jealous nature - Pistorius, the world's most famous Paralympic athlete, has not spoken in his own defense.

That will most likely change on Monday, when the case resumes after a weeklong recess and Pistorius is expected to take the stand. And though he has already provided the court with a written account of how, he says, he shot Steenkamp because he mistook her for an intruder, his testimony will be crucial as he tries to rebut the prosecution's case: that he killed her in a violent rage as the two argued late into the night.

"We need to know what he thought, and it's impossible to rely on that defense without him testifying," said Kelly Phelps, a senior lecturer in law at the University of Cape Town, referring to Pistorius' explanation. "What other evidence can the court rely on to determine what you were thinking?"

In truth, no one else can say for sure what Pistorius was thinking in the early hours of Feb. 14, 2013, when he took his 9 mm pistol and pumped four shots through the bathroom door of his house while Steenkamp cowered inside, her hands folded over her face in a futile attempt to defend herself. Perhaps even he is not altogether certain. But from the defense's point of view, the story he has told is the only one that can save him from a murder conviction.

Martin Hood, a lawyer specializing in firearms law, said that Pistorius would have a hard time squaring his actions that night with evidence that before he got his gun license, he had to pass a test showing he understood that it was illegal in South Africa to fire a gun at someone unless one was directly threatened. He also said Pistorius' case had been damaged by the accounts of neighbors who said they had heard a man and a woman arguing, and a woman screaming, around the time the shots were fired, apparently contradicting Pistorius' statement that he believed Steenkamp was in bed when he heard noises in the bathroom and got up to investigate.

Pistorius' testimony will be crucial in establishing his credibility, Hood added, but will leave him at risk if the prosecution can poke holes in his account, exploit his vulnerable state or, worse, provoke him to anger.

In Phelps' view, the most damning testimony against Pistorius came from text messages, read aloud in court, in which Steenkamp described Pistorius acting jealously and petulantly. "I'm scared of you sometimes," she said in one.

"Up until the messages, they hadn't put any evidence on record to explain why he would intentionally murder her," Phelps said, speaking of the prosecution's case. She added: "Their version was that a man with no proven record of violence, who by all accounts was in a happy, loving relationship, woke up one day and decided to murder this girlfriend, which wasn't plausible. This gives them plausibility." □



French President François Hollande, and former Socialist presidential candidate Ségolène Royal, left, wave during a campaign meeting in Rennes, western France. Royal, French President François Hollande's former partner, has been named Wednesday, April 2, 2014 as Minister of Environment and Energy.

(AP Photo/Christophe Ena)

Italy cracks down on secessionists

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Italian special operations forces arrested 24 suspected secessionists Wednesday who were allegedly planning a violent independence campaign for the wealthy northeastern Veneto region.

Police said the group had built an armored vehicle that they intended to deploy in St. Mark's Square in Venice — reminiscent of a 7 ½-hour takeover of the piazza's famed bell tower

by secessionists in 1997. TV footage showed the vehicle was a bulldozer with firearms that had yet to be mounted.

Italian media reported the secessionists intended to deploy the vehicle on the eve of European Parliamentary elections in May. The crackdown comes days after politicians in Veneto started formal proceedings toward independence, despite constitutional prohibitions.

Veneto's regional governor, Luca Zaia, promoted

an online survey that purportedly showed overwhelming support for secession. But the Corriere del Veneto paper this week reported that most of those 2.6 million votes backing secession were generated by computers abroad.

One survey organizer, Gianluca Busato, called the crackdown a "ridiculous" overreaction by the state.

"We are peaceful democrats," Busato said on Sky TG24. "We have the people on our side." □

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Chile's M8.2 quake causes little damage, death

LUIS ANDRES HENAO
LUIS HIDALGO

Associated Press

IQUIQUE, Chile (AP) —

Hard-won expertise and a big dose of luck helped Chile escape its latest magnitude-8.2 earthquake with surprisingly little damage and death.

The country that suffers some of the world's most powerful quakes has strict building codes, mandatory evacuations and emergency preparedness that sets a global example. But Chileans weren't satisfied Wednesday, finding much room for improvement. And experts warn that a "seismic gap" has left northern Chile overdue for a far bigger quake.

Authorities on Wednesday discovered just six reported deaths from the previous night's quake. It's possible that other people were killed in older structures made of adobe in remote communities that weren't immediately accessible, but it's still a very low toll for such a powerful shift in the undersea fault that runs along the length of South America's Pacific coast.

"How much is it luck? How much is it science? How much is it preparedness? It is a combination of all of the above. I think what we just saw here is pure luck. Mostly, it is luck that the tsunami was not bigger and that it hit a fairly isolated area of Chile," said Costas Synolakis, an engineer who directs the Tsunami Research Center at the University of Southern California.

Chile is one of the world's most seismic countries and is particularly prone to tsunamis, because of the way the Nazca tectonic plate plunges beneath the South American plate, pushing

the towering Andes cordillera ever higher.

About 2,500 homes were damaged in Alto Hospicio, a poor neighborhood in the hills above Iquique, a city of nearly 200,000 people whose coastal residents joined a mandatory evacuation ahead of a tsunami that rose to only 8 feet (2.5 meters). Iquique's fishermen poked through the aftermath: sunken and damaged boats that could cost millions of dollars to repair and replace. Still, as President Michelle Bachelet deployed hundreds of anti-riot police and soldiers to prevent looting and round up escaped prisoners, it was clear that the loss of life and property could have been much worse.

The shaking that began at 8:46 p.m. Tuesday also touched off landslides that blocked roads, knocked out power for thousands, briefly closed regional airports and started fires that destroyed several businesses. Some homes made of adobe also were de-

stroyed in Arica, another city close to the quake's offshore epicenter.

Shaky cellphone videos taken by people eating dinner show light fixtures swaying, furniture shaking and people running to safety, pulling their children under restaurant tables, running for exits and shout-

ing to turn off natural gas connections.

"Stay calm, stay calm! My daughter, stay calm! No, stay calm, be careful, cover yourself," said Vladimir Alejandro Alvarado Lopez as he recorded himself pushing his family under a table. "Shut the gas ... It's still shaking. Let's go,"

he said as he then hustled them outside.

The mandatory evacuation lasted for 10 hours in Iquique and Arica, the cities closest to the epicenter, and kept 900,000 people out of their homes along Chile's 2,500-mile (4,000 kilometer) coastline. The order to leave was spread



Fishing boats washed ashore by a small tsunami, sit in Caleta Riquelme, adjacent to the port, in the northern town of Iquique, Chile, after magnitude 8.2 earthquake struck the northern coast of Chile, Wednesday, April 2, 2014. Authorities lifted tsunami warnings for Chile's long coastline early Wednesday. Six people were crushed to death or suffered fatal heart attacks, a remarkably low toll for such a powerful shift in the Earth's crust.

(AP Photo/Cristian Vivero)

Mexico political boss denies secretary sex claims

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) —

The local political chief in the capital for Mexico's ruling party is denying local press reports that his office hired women to have sex with him by placing them on party payrolls as secretaries or receptionists.

Most Mexican political parties pay their operating expenses with government money, making the allegations even more troubling. Mexican law limits individual campaign contributions to a very small amount, while providing generous

funding for the day-to-day operations of parties between elections.

The reports involve Cuauhtemoc Gutierrez, the Mexico City leader of President Enrique Pena Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI.

Gutierrez said Wednesday that reports he recruited women for the positions through newspaper ads are false.

The MVS radio station said an undercover reporter recorded recruiters telling potential hires they would have to have sex with their boss.

The women had answered a newspaper ad for "women to work in government offices." The recruiter, identified only by her first name, Priscila, is heard telling recruits that "you will be put on the party payroll as secretaries or receptionists" at salaries of about \$850 a month. Gutierrez told MVS the report was "absolutely false." He did not respond to the specific allegations. The PRI national office said in a statement that it was calling on the Mexico City attorney general's office to carry out "a rapid and exhaustive investigation"

of the accusations, but did not say whether it planned to file a formal complaint that prosecutors would need to launch such a probe.

The party said Gutierrez had agreed to take a leave of absence from his local party post until the accusations are cleared up.

The PRI has made a big comeback nationwide since losing its 71-year hold on the presidency in 2000, regaining the nation's top post in 2012, but Mexico City remains a weak point for the centrist party. □

With Plane Still Missing, Legal Moves for Payouts Start

EDWARD WONG

KIRK SEMPLE

© 2014 New York Times

BEIJING - For 10 days, Monica R. Kelly and her American law firm's aviation lawyers have stalked the dim hallways of the Lido Hotel here to make their pitches to relatives of passengers aboard missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

They tell the families that a court in the United States could potentially award millions of dollars per passenger in a lawsuit against the Boeing Co., which built the missing jet, a Boeing

Boeing or other parties is the mystery surrounding the plane's disappearance after it left Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital, en route to Beijing on March 8. No one can say with certainty that the plane has crashed, even though the Malaysian government has said satellite data shows that the flight "ended" in the southern Indian Ocean. International search efforts have yielded no debris.

Still, the rush is on to secure compensation for families of the flight's 227 pas-

based, to try to force Boeing to divulge more information, but both were dismissed. The judge threatened to impose sanctions. Ribbeck Law has sent six employees to Beijing and six to Kuala Lumpur, where families of passengers have gathered in hotels. Rival firms have also been contacting families.

"The next step is getting insurance payments, not lawsuits," said James Healy-Pratt, a partner and head of the aviation department at Stewarts Law, based in London.

"Talking about lawsuits or whatever - we still don't know where the plane is," he said.

Some of the Flight 370 families are accepting insurance payments as a first step. The China Life Insurance Co., the biggest such company in China, said on its website that it had 32 clients on the flight and that it had paid out \$670,400 to cover seven of them as of March 25. It said the total payment for all the clients would be nearly \$1.5 million. At least five other Chinese insur-

The payouts are made by a consortium of companies that are known as reinsurers. In this case, the lead company is Allianz Global Corporate and Specialty, part of Allianz of Germany. The company said it and other reinsurers had already begun making claims payments.

Two years after another aviation mystery, the crash of an Air France Airbus in the Atlantic in 2009, a French judge determined that the airline's mandatory payout under the Montreal Convention would be 126,000 euros per passenger, about \$180,000.

Air France says it has since reached confidential settlements with most of the families of passengers aboard that flight. Families agreeing to the settlements cannot seek any further compensation, even if the continuing French criminal investigation leads to a trial and damages are awarded by a judge.

Airbus has not made any payouts and would face such damages only if it were found liable in a trial. The amounts awarded in lawsuits related to Flight 370 could vary by the jurisdiction of filing. U.S. courts offer plaintiffs a better chance of winning multi-million-dollar settlements, several aviation lawyers said. Those courts assign greater economic value to individual lives than do courts in other countries, and they also regularly impose punitive damages on companies. Jurisdictions for lawsuits are dictated by the Montreal Convention. The most a Chinese court has awarded plaintiffs in a fatal plane crash case is about \$140,000 per passenger, for an accident involving Henan Airlines in 2010. Zhang Qihuan, a lawyer who has been talking to relatives of those on Flight 370, said a court probably would not award more than that in any accident, to avoid setting a precedent. But he said families could settle for a much higher amount out of court if they agreed to keep quiet. □



Monica Kelly, whose firm Ribbeck Law has handled many aviation disaster settlements, at the Lido Hotel in Beijing, where many relatives of passengers aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines jet are staying. Kelly tells families that a suit against Boeing could land families millions of dollars per passenger, but acknowledges that Flight MH370 is a uniquely difficult case.

(Gilles Sabrie/The New York Times)

777-200. In a hotel suite, Kelly uses a model of a Boeing 777 to show families how the plane might have malfunctioned.

"It's not an issue of whether families will be compensated," Kelly said recently. "It's a question of how much and when."

But Kelly admitted that Flight 370 was a uniquely difficult case. "We've done more than 43 plane crashes," she said, "and there's never been a situation like this one, ever."

Complicating the prospects for a legal case against Malaysia Airlines,

sengers, about two-thirds of whom are Chinese. Insurance companies here have already made payments to some relatives. On top of that, the families can expect to receive compensation from Malaysia Airlines because of guarantees in an international treaty. They can also opt to sue the airline for more damages, or to sue Boeing or a component manufacturer. Any lawsuit could take years to conclude.

Kelly's firm, Ribbeck Law, made two filings in a court in Chicago, where it is

Some Chinese families are reluctant to immediately pursue lawsuits or take the payment that airlines generally award in the event of a plane crash, as mandated by international law in the Montreal Convention. Many refuse to accept that the passengers are dead and insist that the Malaysian government is orchestrating an elaborate cover-up.

Wang Le, whose mother was on Flight 370, said that he was starting to cope with her death, but that "it's not the time for compensation yet."

ance companies have also made payments.

Since Malaysia is bound by the Montreal Convention, the families are also entitled to a minimum compensation from Malaysia Airlines, up to \$174,000 per passenger. The airline or its insurer might try to persuade a family to agree not to sue in exchange for a payment. But lawyers discourage families from signing such waivers. (Crew members are usually not covered by the treaty, but their families can get workers' compensation and file lawsuits.)



GM's Challenge Continues with Successful Alto Vista Trail Run



PALM BEACH - Colleagues from the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa participated in a challenging road race, just recently. The winner, Manuel Reyes, completed the trail in 21 minutes 56 seconds, with resort General Manager

Mark Frances, coming in as 1st finalist at 25.24, followed by Juan Campuzano, as 2nd finalist at 26.33, Dolph Paesch, as 3rd finalist at 28.17 and Mike Croes, as 4th finalist at 29.17. The race signaled the beginning of the second year

challenge initiated by athletic resort General Manager Mark Lyttleton Frances who encouraged and coaxed members of the executive committee and staffers to get fit and trim and adhere to a healthy life-style, with daily exer-

cise, since the beginning of 2013. Last year the group ran a couple of races, including one for charity in December. This year, with the Alto Vista loop, their program has just begun, as additional GM challenges are planned for 2014, including an international one, in December, with runners from different Radisson properties around the globe. The route, says Frances, was a tough this time, and

I am very proud of each colleague who faced the challenge head on, not giving up after realizing how strenuous it would be. Thank you for your participation, I saw real camaraderie amongst runners, and I am very pleased with the results. Pictured here, the participants picking up their certificates, with organizer Lourdes Geerman supported by Marina Carty & Melissa Kock. □



Honoring at Divi Village Resort

DRUIF BEACH - Recently, Ms. Marouska Heyliger honored Mrs. Antoinette Abela from Ontario with the Distinguished Visitor certificate in the name of the Aruba Tourism Authority. The event which commemorates Mrs. Abela's 11th consecutive visit to the island was held at the Divi Village Resort. Mrs. Abela loves coming to the Island for its beautiful scenery and culture. □

DIGICEL ACQUIRES WIV

ORANJESTAD - Digicel, together with its local partner Telemedia announced on April 1st the acquisition of WIV Cable TV, which has been operating in the Turks and Caicos Islands for over 30 years and its sister company TCT, which operates the TCEXpress High Speed Cable Internet Service. The transaction closed on April 1st, 2014 for an undisclosed sum. With Digicel already having launched super-

fast 4G services in the Turks and Caicos within the last 12 months, this move sees Digicel not only enhancing its ability to provide broadband internet services to consumers and business, but also moving into the cable television space for the first time in the Turks and Caicos.

Commenting on the acquisitions, E. Jay Saunders, General Manager, Digicel Turks and Caicos, said;

"We are very excited by this acquisition. At Digicel, we understand the vital role that a robust com-



munications infrastructure plays in driving economic growth in a country and this acquisition shows our commitment to achieving that end."

He continues; "Through this purchase, we now have the most extensive fiber optic network in the country, which we will utilize to ensure that our customers continue to benefit from our commitment to delivering best value, best service, and the best network. We would like to thank the Management and staff of WIV and TCT for the tremendous job that they have done over the years and we would like to officially welcome them into the Digicel family."

After twelve years of operation, Digicel Group Limited has over 13 million customers across its 31 markets in the Caribbean, Central America and the Pacific. The company is renowned for delivering best value, best service and best network. Digicel is the lead sponsor of Caribbean, Central American and Pacific sports teams, including the Special Olympics teams throughout these re-

gions. Digicel sponsors the West Indies cricket team and is also the title sponsor of the Digicel Caribbean Cup. In the Pacific, Digicel is the proud sponsor of several national rugby teams and also sponsors the Vanuatu cricket team.

Digicel also runs a host of community-based initiatives across its markets and has set up Digicel Foundations in Jamaica, Haiti and Papua New Guinea which focus on educational, cultural and social development programmes.

Digicel is incorporated in Bermuda and its markets comprise: Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, El Salvador, Fiji, French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Nauru, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Suriname, Tonga, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos, and Vanuatu. Digicel also has coverage in St. Martin and St. Barts in the Caribbean. □

**Beauty
On The
Beach**

**Lauren
Smith**

From Boston is making her 3rd trip to our lovely Island. She is staying at Casa del Mar.



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Larkin Family from California honored at Playa Linda

PALM BEACH - Stephen, Rachel, Jack, Avery and Maxwell of the Larkin Family from California were recently honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba upon their 10th consecutive annual visit to the island.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony which was

held at the Playa Linda Resort. They enjoy coming back to Aruba for the beautiful beaches and for family time.

While celebrating with their certificates, Stephen and Maxwell Larkin also celebrated their birthdays. On the pictures are the honorees together with Marouska from ATA and Yvette from Playa Linda. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS

John and Patti Herlihy honored at the Aruba Tropicana Resort



EAGLE BEACH - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very special couple whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Tropicana Resort and Casino as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of

the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Mr. John and Mrs. Patti Herlihy from Rapid City, South Dakota. John and Patty are visiting Aruba for 20 years and this

time they stayed at the Renaissance and at the Tropicana Resort. They love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, casinos great entertainment, and being on Aruba is like being home for them because they have so

many friends on the island. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Mr. Brian Stedeford GM and Ms. Jacky Feliciano executive administrative assistant at the Tropicana Resort and Casino. □

Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"



ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



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Driftwood Restaurant. This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 www.driftwoodaruba.com Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



Johnson homer lifts Braves over Brewers 1-0

By RICH ROVITO
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) -- At least in his first start, Aaron Harang came through with what the Atlanta Braves were hoping for when they signed him late in spring training.

After spending most of the exhibition season with Cleveland on a minor league contract, Harang signed with the Braves on March 24 after a series of injuries to the team's pitchers. Making his Braves' debut, Harang matched Matt Garza's no-hit bid into the seventh inning Wednesday, when Chris Johnson homered with two outs and sent the Braves to a 1-0 victory.

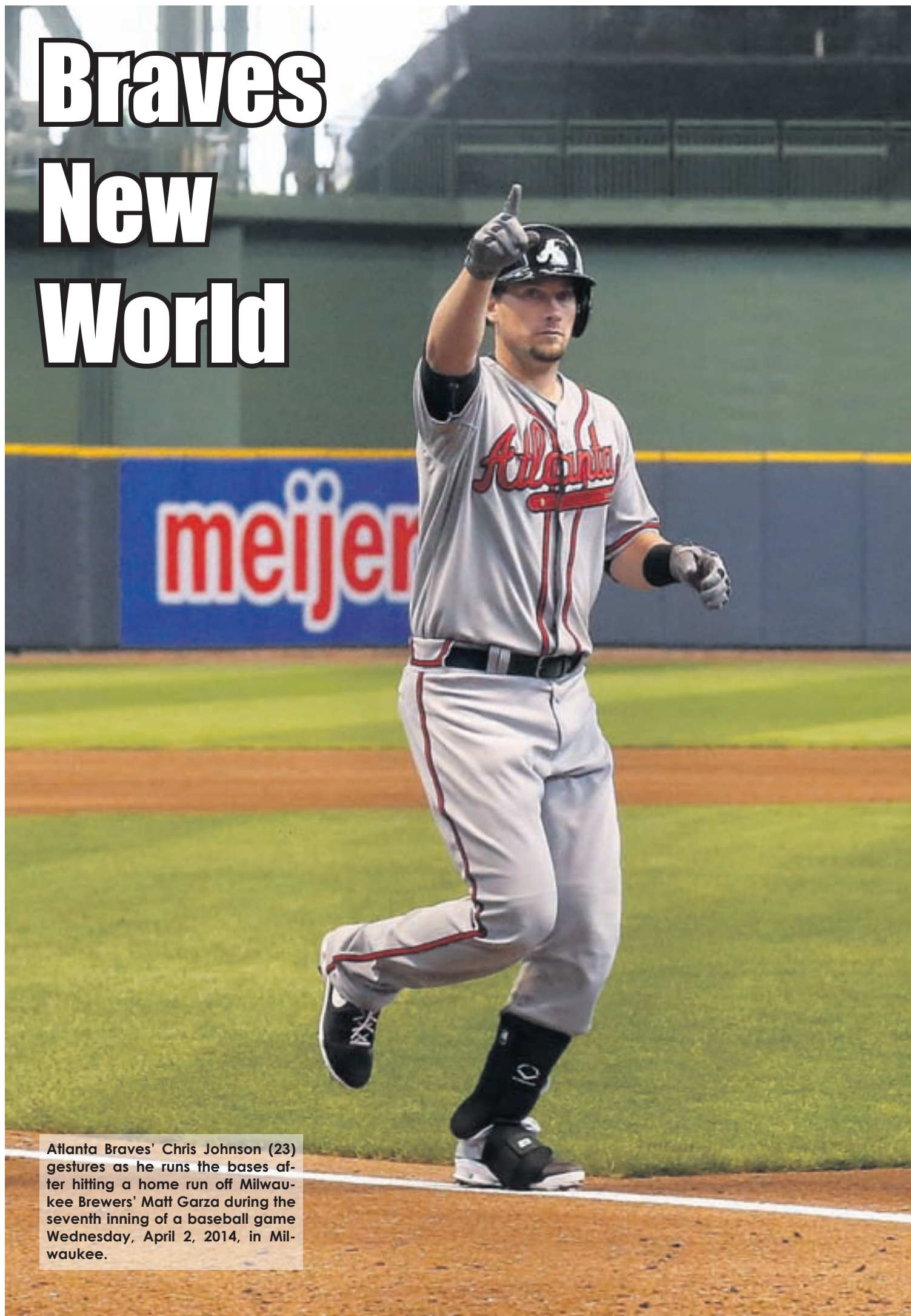
"It's a huge pickup for us," Johnson said. "We were struggling with having guys go down, and we're going to struggle getting guys healthy and to have a performance like that. It's just what we needed."

After season-ending injuries to Kris Medlen and Brandon Beachy, the Braves signed Harang and Ervin Santana. Given how good Garza was in his Brewers' debut, Harang had little margin for error.

"I looked up there after six and saw zeroes all the way across on both sides," Harang said. "I was just able to come out and keep them off balance and keep their team guessing. Then you see their guy throwing up numbers like that, and you're trying to do the same thing and give your team a chance to win. I was able to do that."

Continued on Page 20

Braves New World



Atlanta Braves' Chris Johnson (23) gestures as he runs the bases after hitting a home run off Milwaukee Brewers' Matt Garza during the seventh inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Milwaukee.

Ex-Eagles WR DeSean Jackson signs with Redskins

JOSEPH WHITE
AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Redskins made their biggest move yet of the 2014 offseason on Wednesday when DeSean Jackson signed a contract after two days of visits and negotiations.

Jackson will get \$16 million guaranteed in the three-year, \$24 million deal, according to a person familiar with the terms who spoke on condition of anonymity because the Redskins did not publicly disclose the financial details.

Adding Jackson to an offense with Robert Griffin III should make the Redskins fun to watch again. Adding him to a locker room culture undergoing yet another overhaul could be the greater challenge.

The two days of negotiations were highlighted by a recruiting-style evening out with cornerback DeAngelo Hall, receiver Pierre Garcon and rapper Wale.

"I feel they embraced me," Jackson said. "RG3, DeAngelo Hall reached out to me and made it feel like it

was home. After everything that was going on the past couple of days, and the last week, that's a big step. ... I think the biggest thing about this move is finding a place where I can be happy and go out there and just be myself."

Griffin was already looking forward to the season ahead.

"It's an exciting time to be a Redskins fan and a part of this team because of the firepower that we have," Griffin said in a statement to reporters. "Everyone needs to understand that we haven't won anything yet, and these next few months will be about building those bonds and chemistry so that we can."

The Redskins are getting a three-time Pro Bowl receiver with speed, someone who singlehandedly can change a defense's approach. He set career highs with 82 catches for 1,332 yards last year for the NFC East champion Philadelphia Eagles. And Jackson, who led the NFL in punt return average in 2009, can give a badly needed boost to Washington's special



In this Oct. 28, 2012 file photo shows Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver DeSean Jackson (10) avoiding a tackle by Atlanta Falcons cornerback Asante Samuel (22) during the second half of an NFL football game in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

teams, although his production in the return game has waned over the last three years.

The Redskins are also getting a player not afraid to speak his mind and who isn't shy about his talents. He had a history of off-the-field issues in his six seasons with the Eagles. Among the

lowlights: In 2011, he was deactivated for a game for being late for a team meeting and dropped more passes than usual, part of a season-long spill-over from his unfulfilled desire for a new contract that led to an 11-day training camp holdout.

Last year, in Chip Kelly's

first season as the Eagles' coach, Jackson fumed at members of the coaching staff on the sideline during a game and had to be restrained by two teammates, upset because he didn't get the ball when he was wide open. After the season was over, he lobbied for yet another new contract - just two years after getting a five-year, \$48.2 million deal that included a \$10 million signing bonus.

The Eagles decided enough was enough and tried unsuccessfully to trade Jackson. They released him last week, and Jackson on the same day issued a statement aimed at quashing another off-the-field report, denying any involvement in gang activity near his hometown in Southern California.

The Redskins are coming off a 3-13 season overwhelmed by bad chemistry between coach Mike Shanahan and franchise player Griffin. Shanahan was fired and replaced by Jay Gruden, who will be trying to set a new tone in the locker room. □



Venus Williams returns to Chanelle Scheepers, of South Africa, during the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

Associated Press

BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press
CHARLESTON, South Car-

olina (AP) — Venus Williams advanced in the tournament where her

Venus Williams advances in Family Circle Cup

top-ranked sister could not, battling back to beat Chanelle Scheepers 7-5, 7-5 on Wednesday at the Family Circle Cup.

It was another long day for No. 28-ranked Williams, who needed almost 2 hours to finish the straight-sets victory after falling behind 3-1 in the first set and 4-1 in the second.

"She was playing so well, but the good thing is that when I get behind, I give even more effort and get even more focused. And I've been playing well from behind lately, which is something you really have to be able to do to win big matches," Williams said. The seven-time Grand Slam champion has struggled with injuries and Sjogren's syndrome, a fatigue-causing autoimmune disease,

during the past two years. She was on the clay in Charleston for 2 ¼ hours on Tuesday in a three-set victory and said she has been ill this week.

"I'm still dealing with the bug, but my goal is just to hang in there until it hopefully goes away and then I can just continue to play my way into the tournament and play stronger," she said. "But it's definitely a challenge." On Tuesday night Serena Williams was stunned 6-4, 6-4 by Jana Cepelova of Slovakia, ranked No. 78 in the world, in the second round. Serena Williams said later she was tired and needed time off to regroup.

"I definitely can see where she is tired and her body is taxed," Venus Williams said of her younger sibling. "She

gave an amazing effort yesterday, and she's going to get some well-deserved time off." Venus Williams, who won the Family Circle a decade ago, now faces No. 20 Eugenie Bouchard. Second-seeded Jelena Jankovic was to play the Wednesday night match against American Lauren Davis.

Earlier Wednesday, American Sloane Stephens was upset 6-4, 6-4 by 19-year-old Elina Svitolina of the Ukraine, who notched her fourth career victory over a top 20 player.

"I started to believe more in myself that I can compete with players like this, top level, top 20 and top 10," said Svitolina, who is making her first appearance on the green clay in Charleston. "I think this is the key." □

AL Capsules

Jeter's last season begins with 6-2 loss to Astros

HOUSTON (AP) — Jesus Guzman and L.J. Hoes homered off CC Sabathia to help the Houston Astros roll to a 6-2 win Tuesday in the first game of Derek Jeter's farewell tour with the New York Yankees.

Jeter's final big league season began by being plunked on the left arm by Scott Feldman. The 13-time All-Star went 1 for 3 with a single.

Jeter, who has won five World Series with New York, announced in February that his 20th season would be his last.

The Astros added Dexter Fowler and Scott Feldman to improve a team coming off three straight 100-loss seasons. On the first day, it worked.

Fowler had two doubles as Houston jumped on Sabathia (0-1) for six runs in the first two innings. Feldman allowed two hits in 6 2-3 innings in his Houston debut after signing a three-year, \$30 million contract.

BLUE JAYS 4, RAYS 2

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Drew Hutchison won his first start in almost two years



New York Yankees' Derek Jeter reacts after getting hit by a pitch in the first inning against the Houston Astros in a baseball game Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in Houston. The Astros won 6-2.

Associated Press

and Adam Lind homered for the visiting Blue Jays. Hutchison (1-0) allowed three hits and walked three over 5 1-3 shutout innings in his first big league game since June 15, 2012. The right-hander had elbow ligament replacement sur-

gery in August 2012.

Lind hit a three-run homer in the first off Alex Cobb (0-1). He sent a 3-1 pitch over the center-field fence.

Cobb gave up four runs, five hits and four walks in five innings.

Jonathan Diaz, filling in for

injured Toronto shortstop Jose Reyes, made it 4-0 with his first major league hit, an RBI single in the fourth.

INTERLEAGUE

RANGERS 3, PHILLIES 2
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Adrian Beltre singled home Shin-Soo Choo with the

winning run in the ninth inning as the Rangers saved a run on a successful replay challenge.

Choo, who also scored the tying run in the seventh, reached base for the fourth time on a walk to start the ninth against Mario Holands (0-1), who was making his major league debut. After Elvis Andrus' sacrifice and a walk to Prince Fielder, Phillies manager Ryne Sandberg went to right-hander B.J. Rosenberg. Beltre then singled, scoring Choo without a throw.

New Texas closer Joakim Soria (1-0) got the win with a perfect ninth inning in his season debut.

MARINERS 8, ANGELS 3

ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Brad Miller hit two homers and Erasmo Ramirez pitched seven innings of six-hit ball as Seattle beat Los Angeles again.

Justin Smoak hit a three-run double, while Abraham Almonte and Dustin Ackley also had RBI doubles as the Mariners followed up their 10-3 win on opening day with another surprising offensive barrage. □

White Sox top Twins 7-6 on balk, 2 wild pitches

By MEGHAN MONTEMURRO
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) -- Leury Garcia reached on a bunt single in the 11th inning and came home on a balk and a pair of wild pitches by Samuel Deduno, giving Chicago White Sox a 7-6 win over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday.

Before a crowd of just 10,625, Chicago came back from a 6-4 deficit in the ninth on Garcia's run-scoring single off Glen Perkins and Adam Eaton's RBI grounder.

The speedy Garcia bunted up the third-base line on an 0-2 pitch leading off the 11th and took second when, with Eaton at the plate, Deduno (0-1) never

came to a set position and balked.

Eaton struck out, Deduno bounced an outside pitch that hit off Suzuki's glove as Garcia advanced, and Marcus Semien took a called third strike.

After an intentional walk to Jose Abreu, Deduno threw way outside on a 3-2 to pitch to Adam Dunn, and the ball hit off Suzuki's glove as Garcia came home.

Ronald Belisario (1-0) pitched 1 1-3 hitless innings for the win.

Dunn's solo homer in the eighth off Jared Burton pulled the White Sox to 6-5, but Kurt Suzuki hit a run-scoring double in the ninth against Daniel Wenn for a two-run cushion.

The game was delayed during the top of the seventh after Eaton appeared to catch Oswaldo Arcia's fly ball to center and then dropped it when he went to grab the ball from his glove. The play was ruled a catch, but the Twins challenged the call and it was overturned by a replay umpire in New York.

White Sox left-hander Felipe Paulino, back from elbow and shoulder surgery, made his first start since June 6, 2012, against Minnesota as a member of the Kansas City Royals. He allowed two runs - one earned - and seven hits in 5 1-3 innings with six strikeouts and two walks. Paulino labored at times and threw



Chicago White Sox's Leury Garcia (28) celebrates with teammates after scoring to end a baseball game against the Minnesota Twins in the eleventh inning on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Chicago. The White Sox won 7-6.

109 pitches.

Twins starter Kevin Correia gave up three runs - two earned - and five hits in six innings with five strikeouts and a walk.

Trevor Plouffe had three RBIs for the Twins, who took a 5-3 lead with a three-run seventh. Alexei Ramirez had a two-run double for the White Sox. □

Puig hits 410-foot HR in LA's 3-2 win

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Yasiel Puig hit a 410-foot drive for a two-run homer and Zack Greinke won his season debut, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-2 victory against the San Diego Padres on Tuesday.

NL Capsules

Carl Crawford started the game with a base hit and Puig then drove a 2-1 pitch from Ian Kennedy into the balcony on the third deck of the Western Metal Supply Co. Building in the left-field corner. It was his first homer.

It was the second time Kennedy faced the Dodgers since June 11, when, while with Arizona, he hit Puig and Greinke with pitches, inciting a brawl at Dodger Stadium. Kennedy was suspended 10 games. He was traded to the Padres on July 31.

San Diego loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth against Kenley Jansen, on singles by Yonder Alonso and Will Venable, and a walk to Yasmani Grandal. The closer then struck out pinch-hitter Nick Hundley to earn his second save in two chances.

Greinke (1-0) went five innings, allowing two runs and two hits while striking out five and walking two. Seth Smith homered for San Diego.

MARLINS 4, ROCKIES 3



Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig is congratulated by Los Angeles Dodgers third base coach Lorenzo Bundy after blasting a two run home run against the San Diego Padres in the first inning of a baseball game Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in San Diego.

Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Nathan Eovaldi pitched six innings as Miami made the most of five hits to beat Colorado for the second night in a row.

The Marlins' 2-0 start hints at big improvement from last year, when they began 14-41 en route to a 100-loss season. The Rockies are 0-2 after finishing last in the NL West in 2013.

Eovaldi (1-0) allowed two runs and struck out six after Jose Fernandez limited Colorado to one run in the

season opener. Eovaldi gave up six hits, walked one and reached 99 mph on the radar gun.

A.J. Ramos struck out Nolan Arenado with runners at the corners to end the eighth, protecting a one-run lead. Steve Cishek converted his 30th consecutive save opportunity and first of the year by pitching a perfect ninth.

Brett Anderson (0-1) pitched six innings and allowed four runs, three earned, in his first start for

the Rockies.

BRAVES 5, BREWERS 2

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Freddie Freeman hit a pair of solo home runs and Jason Heyward added a two-run shot to back a solid outing by Alex Wood.

Heyward's first homer of the season off Kyle Lohse (0-1) put the Braves on top 2-1 in the fifth and snapped a string of 22 scoreless innings against the Brewers. Freeman opened the sixth with his first homer and added a two-out home run

in the eighth to make it 4-1. Wood (1-0) settled down after allowing a home run to Carlos Gomez on his first pitch. The left-hander allowed one run on five hits in seven innings. Craig Kimbrel struck out the side in the ninth for the save.

Lohse allowed three runs on five hits in seven innings, striking out eight and walking two.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, GIANTS 4

PHOENIX (AP) — A.J. Pollock broke out of an 0-for-13 start to the season with three hits, scoring twice and driving in a run for Arizona.

Wade Miley (1-1) gave up four runs in the first inning, and then blanked the Giants for the next six, retiring 15 in a row in one stretch.

Gerardo Parra had two hits and the sacrifice fly that scored to the go-ahead run in the sixth inning.

Brandon Belt hit a three-run home run in the first, his second homer in as many games.

Addison Reed, who gave up the game-winning home run to Buster Posey Monday night, pitched a scoreless ninth for his first save with the Diamondbacks.

Juan Guiterrez (0-1) went two innings to take the loss in relief of Matt Cain, who allowed two earned runs in five innings. □

Braves

Continued from Page 18

Harang (1-0) didn't allow a hit until Logan Schafer grounded a single leading off the bottom of the seventh. He gave up two hits in 6 2-3 innings, struck out three and walked one, throwing 63 of 97 pitches for strikes.

"After the first hit, the emotions just run out of you for a minute, but knowing that you've got a 1-0 lead you've got to stay in there and regain your focus and keep executing pitches," Harang said. "The bullpen was able to get me out of that jam and slam the



Atlanta Braves' Jason Heyward makes a sliding catch on a ball hit by Milwaukee Brewers' Carlos Gomes during the ninth inning of a baseball game Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in Milwaukee. Atlanta won 1-0.

Associated Press

door." Relievers Luis Avilan, David Carpenter and Craig Kim-

brel held the Brewers hitless. Kimbrel got three outs for his second save, com-

pleting a two-hitter.

"Any time you get a 1-0 win, all kudos goes to the pitching staff," Johnson said. "He was fun to play behind. He was throwing strikes on both sides of the plate."

Harang retired his first seven batters before walking Lyle Overbay, then retired 10 in a row before Schafer's single.

This marked the first time both starting pitchers in a big league game had not allowed a hit through six innings since June 13, 2010, when Ted Lilly of the Cubs and Gavin Floyd of the White Sox accomplished the feat, according to STATS. Alfonso Soriano dou-

bled with two outs in the bottom of the seventh and scored on Chad Tracy's single, and Lilly didn't allow a hit until pinch-hitter Juan Pierre's leadoff single in the ninth. The Cubs won 1-0.

Garza (0-1) made his first start for Milwaukee after signing a \$50 million, four-year contract as a free agent.

He allowed one run and two hits in eight innings, struck out seven and walked none, throwing 65 of 90 pitches for strikes.

"It's one mistake and that's it. It's the big leagues," Garza said. "You've got to pay for things like that, especially with the heater to the four-hole hitter." □

Mickelson set to return to action at Houston Open



Phil Mickelson sits on the grass as watches his playing partners finish the 16th hole during the second round of the Texas Open golf tournament, Friday, March 28, 2014, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

KURT VOIGT
AP Sports Writer

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Phil Mickelson announced on his website Wednesday that he's recovered from a muscle strain and is ready to play in this week's Houston Open.

The four-time major winner, who withdrew from last week's Texas Open after pulling a muscle in his right side, said he'll play in the \$6.4-million event after two days of "light practice" at Augusta National, site of next week's Masters.

"I feel that to give myself the best chance at the Masters I have to play in Houston," Mickelson said. "If I thought I would injure myself further I would have withdrawn from the tournament, but the last few days have been good."

The world's No. 5 player helped solidify the Houston Open's spot as a preferred Masters tuneup by com-

mitting to play in 2008 and every year since. He won it in 2011 and finished 16th last year.

Mickelson's return to the 7,441-yard Golf Club of Houston — formerly known as Redstone Golf Club before an ownership change — highlights a stellar field that features the winners of 34 major championships. It's a field that includes Henrik Stenson, Rory McIlroy and Sergio Garcia, among others, as well as defending champion D.A. Points. First and foremost, they're after the winner's share of prize money — while also using the course's slick greens and tight rough to prepare for the Masters.

And that's just fine with McIlroy, who tied for 45th at the event last year while still in the infant stages of a club change.

"It's brilliant," McIlroy said. "They get the fairway heights the same, the

rough heights the same, the runoff around the greens ... It's perfect for that."

McIlroy finished 19th at the Houston Open in 2009 before missing the cut a year later. The former world No. 1 was winless on the PGA Tour last year, though he has been trending upward since — including a win over Adam Scott in the Australian Open in December.

He finished second at the Honda Classic last month before tying for 25th at Doral.

McIlroy took the last three weeks off leading into the Houston Open — a big change from last year when he decided to play the Texas Open only days ahead of time. Even with Augusta National looming, McIlroy said he's fully focused on competing this week.

"I think it's important to fin-

ish well," McIlroy said. "I don't think there's any better way to prepare than getting yourself into contention and playing golf under pressure, because that's ultimately what you want to do next week." Points sank a 13-foot par putt on the 72nd hole to win last year, winning by one stroke over Stenson and Billy Horschel. The American hasn't finished higher than 28th

this year, including missed cuts in each of his last two tournaments, but his confidence is high this week.

"Knowing that I've had success here, and it's cool to be out there," Points said. "Makes you feel like, 'Hey, I can do that again.'" Mickelson tees off Thursday with Webb Simpson and Keegan Bradley. McIlroy's threesome with Dustin Johnson and Luke Donald begins in the afternoon. □

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APRIL 3 - 9

NEW THIS WEEK!

SABOTAGE
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER | SAM WORTHINGTON
MON - THURS 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30
FRI 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SAT 2:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30 | 12:00
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:30 | 7:00 | 9:30

MUPPETS MOST WANTED
RICKY GERVAIS | TY BURRELL
MON - THURS 4:00 | 6:10 | 8:40
FRI 4:00 | 6:10 | 8:40
SAT 3:40 | 6:10 | 8:40
SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:10 | 8:40

ALSO SHOWING!

CAPTAIN AMERICA THE WINTER SOLDIER
CHRIS EVANS | SCARLETT JOHANSSON
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 4:45 | 7:40
FRI 4:45 | 7:40 | 10:35
SAT 1:50 | 4:45 | 7:40 | 10:35
SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:45 | 7:40
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 6:15 | 9:10
FRI 6:15 | 9:10
SAT 3:20 | 6:15 | 9:10
SUN & HOL 3:20 | 6:15 | 9:10

NOAH
RUSSELL CROWE | JENNIFER CONNELLY
2D VERSION
MON - THURS 4:50 | 7:45
FRI 4:50 | 7:45 | 10:40
SAT 2:00 | 4:50 | 7:45 | 10:40
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:50 | 7:45
3D VERSION
MON - THURS 6:05 | 9:00
FRI 6:05 | 9:00
SAT 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 6:05 | 9:00

SON OF GOD
DIOGO MORGADO | SEBASTIAN KNAPP
MON - THURS 8:45
FRI 8:45
SAT 8:45
SUN & HOL 8:45

DIVERGENT
SHAILENE WOODLEY | THEO JAMES
MON - THURS 6:00 | 9:00
FRI 6:00 | 9:00 | 11:20
SAT 3:00 | 6:00 | 9:00 | 11:20
SUN & HOL 3:00 | 6:00 | 9:00

MR. PEABODY & SHERMAN
TY BURRELL | MAX CHARLES
MON - THURS 4:25 | 6:35
FRI 4:25 | 6:35
SAT 2:15 | 4:25 | 6:35
SUN & HOL 2:15 | 4:25 | 6:35

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NBA Capsules

Nets clinch playoffs spot with win over Rockets

NEW YORK (AP) — The Brooklyn Nets clinched a playoff berth by beating the Houston Rockets for the first time in eight years, getting 32 points from Joe Johnson in a 105-96 victory on Tuesday.

Shaun Livingston added 17 points for the Nets, who extended their home winning streak to 14 games, longest in their NBA history and tops in the league this season. They also pulled within 1½ games of Toronto and Chicago for the No. 3 seed in the Eastern Conference.

The Nets ended a 14-game skid against Houston with their first victory in the series since March 13, 2006. The Nets hadn't defeated the Rockets at home since March 31, 2003, when they were still playing in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

James Harden scored 26 points for Houston, which lost its second straight following a five-game winning

streak. Still without Dwight Howard because of a sore left ankle, the Rockets shot just 38 percent from the field.

WARRIORS 122, MAVERICKS 120, OT

DALLAS (AP) — Stephen Curry made a tiebreaking jumper in the final second of overtime, lifting the Golden State to the win.

Curry finished with 23 points and 10 rebounds. Klay Thompson led Golden State with 27 points, and Jermaine O'Neal added 20.

Dallas had a three-point lead until Thompson made a 3-pointer with 1:01 remaining in regulation.

O'Neal blocked a Dallas shot with the game tied at 120, setting the stage for Curry's winning move. He dribbled the ball to the left side of the court and hit from 20 feet.

The Mavericks called time-out, but the inbounds pass

failed to connect as time ran out.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 33 points and 11 rebounds. He had 16 in the Mavericks' 41-point second quarter.

Dallas dropped from seventh in the Western Conference to ninth, a half-game behind Memphis and Phoenix in the final two playoff positions.

TRAIL BLAZERS 124, LAKERS 112

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Damian Lillard scored 34 points, and LaMarcus Aldridge had 31 points and 15 rebounds as Portland overpowered Los Angeles.

The Blazers' fourth straight victory, coupled with Houston's loss at Brooklyn, moved Portland within 1½ games of the Rockets for fourth place in the Western Conference and home-court advantage in the opening round of the playoffs. The Rockets have three games in hand. □



Brooklyn Nets guard Joe Johnson (7) shoots over Houston Rockets guard James Harden (13) and forward Chandler Parsons (25) during the first half of their NBA basketball game at the Barclays Center, Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in New York.

Associated Press

NHL Capsules

Miller, Blues blank Flyers 1-0 in shootout

The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Ryan Miller stopped 31 shots and T.J. Oshie and Kevin Shattenkirk scored in a shootout in the St. Louis Blues' 1-0 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday.

Western Conference leader St. Louis has 109 points, one fewer than East leader Boston for the top spot in the NHL.

Miller, who earned his 29th career shutout, made a skate save against Vincent Lecavalier and a glove save on Claude Giroux in the shootout.

One of Miller's best saves came with 1:30 to go in overtime when he stretched out and denied Jakub Voracek's bid to slide the puck under his pads.

SHARKS 5, OILERS 4

SAN JOSE, California (AP)



St. Louis Blues goalie Ryan Miller, left, makes a save on a shot by Philadelphia Flyers' Vincent Lecavalier during a shootout of an NHL hockey game Tuesday, April 1, 2014, in St. Louis. The Blues won 1-0.

Associated Press

— Patrick Marleau scored his 32nd goal of the season with 7:29 left in the third period to lift San Jose over Edmonton.

The Sharks had blown a 3-1 lead and were 0 for 5 on power plays before Marleau rocketed a shot past Ben Scrivens after the goal-

ie had deflected a one-timer by San Jose's Brent Burns.

Dan Boyle, Andrew Desjardins and Tommy Wingels also scored for the Sharks, who moved within one point of first-place Anaheim in the Pacific Division. Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had

two goals and two assists for Edmonton, which lost for the fourth time in five meetings between the teams this season. Taylor Hall and Jordan Eberle also scored for the Oilers.

SABRES 3, AVALANCHE 2
BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Tyler Ennis scored twice in the third period and again in the shootout as Buffalo edged Colorado.

Tyler Ennis scored twice in the third period and again in the shootout to lead the Buffalo Sabres to a 3-2 win over the New Jersey Devils on Tuesday.

The Devils are 0-11 this season in shootouts. They are three points out of the Eastern Conference's final wild card spot.

Dainius Zubrus gave New Jersey a 1-0 lead in the second period and Tuomo Ru-

utu tipped Andy Greene's shot past Lieuwen at the 6:58 mark of the third to tie it 2-2.

Cory Schneider made 25 saves for New Jersey.

AVALANCHE 3, BLUE JACKETS 2, OT

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Gabriel Landeskog scored twice, including a power-play goal at 4:27 of overtime to help the Avalanche extend their winning streak to four.

Rookie scoring leader Nathan MacKinnon, centering the top line with Matt Duchene expected to miss a month with a knee injury, assisted on both of Landeskog's scores.

Semyon Varlamov stopped 24 shots — including a prime chance by Blake Comeau late in regulation to pick up his league-leading 38th win. □

Microsoft reveals Siri-like Windows Phone feature

ANICK JESDANUN

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Microsoft unveiled a new virtual assistant for Windows Phone devices Wednesday as it seeks to gain traction in a highly competitive and lucrative market for smartphones. The assistant, Cortana, is named after an artificial-intelligence character in the company's "Halo" video games. Cortana tries to be chatty like Siri on Apple's iPhones and iPads, while anticipating information you might want, like Google Now on Android devices.

Cortana is among the new features coming to a Windows Phone update called 8.1. The updated operating system will come with new phones in about a month, including three new ones that Nokia announced Wednesday. It will also be available as a free download for existing phones a few months later.

Microsoft is also updating its Windows 8.1 system for tablets, laptops and desktops. Although Mi-

crosoft has been pushing touch-screen controls, the new update is designed to make it easier for those with traditional keyboard and mouse controls. The update, simply called Windows 8.1 Update, is available starting next Tuesday.

The announcements come as Microsoft Corp. opened its annual Build conference in San Francisco.

Most of the new features relate to Windows Phone, a system that hadn't received as much attention as the main Windows system in recent years. But it's an area where Microsoft sees growth opportunities and underscores its commitment to mobile devices and services under new CEO Satya Nadella.

Windows Phone had less than 5 percent of the smartphone market last year, according to Gartner. But unlike traditional PCs, people tend to upgrade phones more frequently. Many people in emerging markets are also getting smartphones



Microsoft corporate vice president Joe Belfiore, of the Operating Systems Group, demonstrates the new Cortana personal assistant during the keynote address of the Build Conference Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in San Francisco.

Associated Press

for the first time. With the Cortana assistant, Microsoft catches up to Siri and Google Now in many ways. You can use voice commands to search for information, set alarms and make calendar entries, for instance.

Cortana tries to go further by warning you of conflicts when you add

items to your calendar. It will also remind you to ask about the new dog your sister just got the next time you communicate with her, whether that's by phone, chat or email. Cortana also promises to give you more ways to customize it. While Google Now will alert you to upcoming travel by scanning your email, Cortana will ask whether it should offer you such alerts. That might reduce unwanted alerts, though it will require more work to set up. Microsoft said the feature is in a "beta" test mode as the company tries to improve its voice recognition capabilities. In fact, during Wednesday's presentation, Cortana made numerous mistakes, including offering weather in Celsius when the request was for the Kelvin temperature scale. The company also announced a new Action Center for the Windows Phone system as a hub for app notifications and information such as remaining battery life. Other new phone features include automatic connecting to free Wi-Fi hotspots to save on cellular data.

Microsoft provided more details about how the company is making the Windows Phone system more useful in business

settings. Companies will be able to restrict apps that can run on phones issued to employees or prevent sensitive documents from being saved locally. To bridge the divide between the phone system and Windows 8.1 for larger devices, Microsoft unveiled tools to let software developers adapt apps for the various devices more easily. App developers will also be able to sell apps once across the board; currently, customers must get apps for phones and for other devices separately. As for Windows 8.1, Microsoft previously said the update will add search, power and settings buttons to the Start page, so people don't have to figure out how to pull those functions from the right side of their screens. New features announced Wednesday include more seamless transitions between newer, touch-based apps and those using the traditional desktop-style interface. The taskbar at the bottom of the screen in the desktop mode will now let people pin any app as a favorite, not just those designed for the desktop mode. Microsoft is also restoring a bar at the top of apps to make it easier to close and minimize apps. □

Amazon unveils Fire TV set top streaming device

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is introducing a set top box that allows streaming of online video content.

The company says the Amazon Fire TV device has better speed, performance and search functions than other streaming services such as Apple TV and Google Chromecast. The device runs Google's Android operating system and will offer Netflix, Hulu and other streaming channels in addition to Amazon Prime instant video. It has voice search via its remote control to make searching easier. The announcement comes as the online retailer faces increasing pressure to boost its bottom line after years of furious growth. As more Americans shop online, Amazon has spent heavily to expand its busi-



Amazon Fire TV is unveiled during a press conference in New York, Wednesday, April 2, 2014.

Associated Press

ness into new areas — from movie streaming to e-readers and groceries — often at the expense of its profit. Meanwhile, Amazon.com Inc. has invested heavily on making TV shows and movies available to customers who pay \$99 a year for Amazon Prime. Amazon recently boosted the an-

nual fee to \$99 from \$79 annually. Members benefit from two-day shipping of certain items and access to videos including original series like "Betas" and "Alpha House."

Currently, the service relies on third-party devices like the Roku box to stream its programs to TVs. □

S&P 500 notches another record after hiring report

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks closed higher for a fourth straight day on Wednesday after a report on hiring provided another encouraging sign that the U.S. economy is emerging from its winter slump.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed at a record high for the eighth time this year. The Dow Jones industrial average also rose above its record closing level during trading, but fell back and finished just short of its first all-time high of the year.

The stock market has turned higher this week after moving largely sideways for most of the year as reports have suggested that the economy is strengthening after slowing down during an unusually harsh winter. The catalyst on Wednesday was a private survey that showed that U.S. companies increased hiring at a rapid pace last month after a strong manufacturing survey a day earlier.

"In January and February we had that weather weakness and it's now showing through that ... the underlying economy is fine," said Jerry Braakman, chief investment officer of First American Trust. "Economic expansion should continue."

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 5.38 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,890.90. The Dow Jones industrial aver-

age climbed 40.39 points, or 0.24 percent, to 16,573. That's just short of its record close of 16,576.66 set Dec. 31. The Nasdaq composite rose 8.52 points, or 0.2 percent, to 4,276.46.

Payroll processor ADP said

that U.S. employers added 200,000 jobs in March, according to data provider

Economists are forecasting

FactSet. That would be the most since November last year.

"In general, expectations for this Friday's non-farms payrolls number have clearly risen over the last two weeks," said Gary

There was more encouraging news on manufacturing Wednesday as the Commerce Department reported that orders to U.S. factories rose 1.6 percent in February, the most in five months. On Tuesday, the



CBS President and CEO Leslie Moonves, right, and CBS Outdoor Americas Inc. CEO Jeremy Male, center, applaud on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Stocks closed higher for a fourth straight day on Wednesday after a report on hiring provided another encouraging sign that the U.S. economy is emerging from its winter slump.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

private employers added 191,000 jobs. ADP also revised February's job cre-

that U.S. employers added 200,000 jobs in March, according to data provider

Flam, a portfolio manager at Bel Air Investment Advisors.

S&P 500 gained after the Institute for Supply Management said its manufacturing index rose in March. Industrial companies were among the biggest gainers in the S&P 500 index on Wednesday. The sector has risen 2.7 percent over the last week, as signs have emerged that manufacturing is strengthening, makes it the second-best performer of the 10 industry groups that make up the S&P 500. After the jobs report on Friday, investors will turn their focus to corporate earnings, as companies start to report for the first quarter. First quarter earnings are expected to grow by just 0.4 percent for the quarter after rising 7.8 percent in the fourth quarter, according to S&P Capital IQ. □

Ford:

Russian joint venture cuts about 950 jobs

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON(AP) - Ford

Motor Co. says its Russian joint venture is cutting 950 jobs due to falling sales and the declining value of the ruble.

The automaker says that Ford Sollers will cut 700 jobs at its plant in St. Petersburg and an estimated 250 temporary employees in Tatarstan. The reductions affect about 19 percent of its 5,000-person workforce in Russia.

Ford, based in Dearborn, Michigan, has a long history in Russia.

It first entered the market in 1907 and opened its first Russian manufacturing plant in 2002. The Ford Sollers joint venture began operations in late 2011 through an agreement with a Russian automaker. The joint venture has grown from building two vehicle models in Russia to nine models; everything it builds in Russia is sold there.

The company said Wednesday that it still expects Russia to become Europe's largest auto market in the long run. But weaker demand for compact cars and the impact of the falling ruble against other currencies have hindered its business.

The joint venture said that its sales in Russia fell 21 percent as of the end of February, by comparison to the prior month.

Ford said that the decision

is independent of Russia's annexation of Crimea, noting that the majority of the decline in the value of the ruble occurred before the start of the situation in the Ukraine.

The joint venture still plans to move forward with plans to build and launch the EcoSport small SUV and a new Transit commercial vehicle this year, as well as go into production of the new Ford Focus and Mondeo in 2015. □

Top exec Blythe Masters to leave JPMorgan Chase

JESSICA SILVER-GREEN-BERG

© 2014 New York Times

Blythe Masters, a top JPMorgan Chase executive, and known on Wall Street as a pioneer of a complicated financial product that played a starring role in the 2008 financial crisis, is leaving the bank, the latest in high-profile departure from the nation's largest bank.

Masters, who headed JPMorgan's commodities business and spent almost three decades at the bank, intends to take "time off" in order to mull "future opportunities," according to an internal memo Wednesday.

The announcement Wednesday comes on the heels of another loss for JPMorgan. Last week, Michael Cavanagh, a top lieutenant to the bank's chief executive, Jamie Dimon, said he would leave the bank for private equity firm, Carlyle.

Wall Street banks have been seeking to exit from trading physical commodities in the wake of regulations that rein in banks' abilities to trade for their own accounts. Last month, JPMorgan announced that it had agreed to sell its physical commodities trading unit for \$3.5 billion in cash to the Swiss trading firm Mercuria Energy Group.

Masters had faced scrutiny from the nation's top energy regulator, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which accused JPMorgan last year of manipulating California energy markets. Investigators with the agency had pushed the commission to pursue an action against both JPMorgan and Masters, arguing that the executive had made "false and misleading statements" under oath.

JPMorgan, which vociferously disputed that claim, struck a \$410 million pact with the regulator in July. The bank did not admit or deny the accusations of market manipulation. □

Amazon announces new \$99 set-top box

JONAH BROMWICH
DAVID STREITFELD
© 2014 New York Times

Amazon announced Wednesday that it was making a \$99 set-top box, its boldest departure yet from its origins as a simple shopping site. The box gives the retailer a foothold in a technology - television - that has been begging for reinvention and yet curiously immune to it.

The small black device, called Amazon Fire TV and

available now, will allow consumers to watch Amazon's video library on their television sets, a first step in the retailer's ambitious long-range plans to merge shopping and entertainment. Fire TV will show a range of content from other providers, including Hulu, Netflix and ESPN. With a separate \$40 controller, it can be used to play games, including a version of the extremely popular Minecraft.

The device, an effort to win the battle of the living room that just about every tech company is engaged in, puts Amazon in competition with companies like Microsoft and Sony, which make full-scale game devices, and Comcast, which does not want to see its subscribers cut the cable cord in favor of technology and entertainment from Amazon.

Amazon is leveraging its position as a retailer to ex-

pand into new fields, something it has become very good at.

"Because we're selling millions" of set-top boxes already, "we hear what's working and we hear what's not working," said Amazon vice president Peter Larsen, who ran the news conference at a Manhattan auditorium announcing the new device.

Jeff Bezos, Amazon founder and chief executive, was not present. □

BlackBerry ending T-Mobile US licensing deal

NEW YORK (AP) — BlackBerry is ending its U.S. licensing deal with T-Mobile, saying the companies no longer have complementary strategies.

The disconnect appears to be related to a T-Mobile promotion that BlackBerry took issue with last month. In a blog post in February, BlackBerry CEO and Executive Chair John Chen said that T-Mobile had emailed an offer targeting BlackBerry users on its network asking them to switch their BlackBerry devices to a competitor's smartphone. Chen said that BlackBerry had not been told of T-Mobile's plans in advance and thanked its customers for expressing their displeasure. Chen told its customers that BlackBerry was upset about the offer and that T-Mobile hadn't spoken with the Canadian company before or after launching the promotion. BlackBerry's existing licensing agreement with T-Mobile U.S. Inc. expires on April 25.

Once the deal ends, BlackBerry customers on the T-Mobile network shouldn't see any change in their service or support, BlackBerry said.

BlackBerry Ltd., formerly known as Research In Motion, said that it will work with T-Mobile to help any BlackBerry customers remaining on the T-Mobile U.S. network or any customers buying devices from T-Mobile's existing inventory.

BlackBerry said it's also



A BlackBerry Q10 smartphone is displayed in Toronto. BlackBerry is ending its U.S. licensing deal with T-Mobile, saying the companies no longer have complementary strategies.

(AP Photo/The Canadian Press, Graeme Roy)

working with its other carrier partners to give its customers options should they want to switch to another carrier.

Chen said in a statement that the company hopes to work with T-Mobile again when their business strategies align.

The BlackBerry, pioneered in 1999, had been the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people and other consumers before the iPhone debuted in 2007 and showed that phones can handle much more than email and phone calls. The BlackBerry has also been hurt by competition from Android-based rivals.

On Friday the company reported mixed fourth-quarter results as its adjusted loss was better than expected, but revenue — which dropped below \$1 billion for the first time since late 2007 — fell short of analysts' expectations.

BlackBerry is transitioning its business from a smartphone company to a software business under Chen, who is deemphasizing the hardware business after last year's launch of the BlackBerry 10 failed to spark a turnaround.

Chen, who is credited with turning around Sybase, a data company that was sold to SAP in 2010, is putting more emphasis on

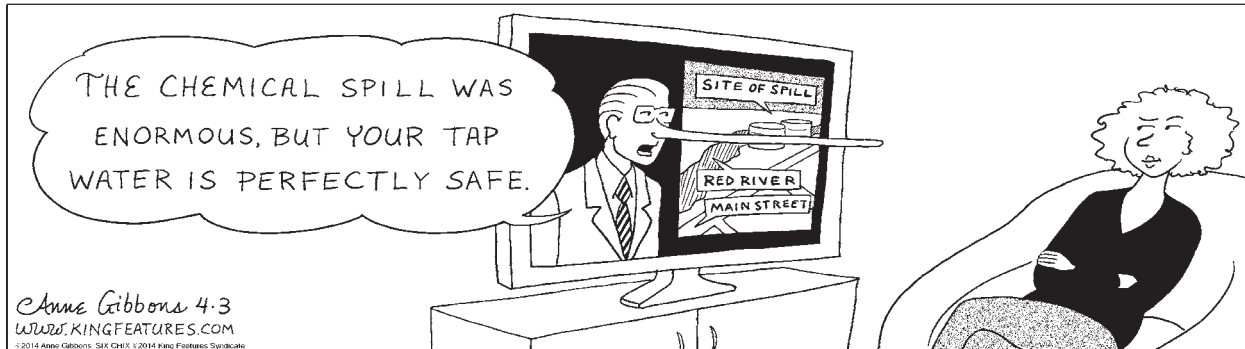
BlackBerry's mobile device management business, a collection of software that allows IT departments to manage different devices connected to their corporate networks. He is also emphasizing BlackBerry's popular BlackBerry Messenger application that is now also available on Apple and Android devices. And he is trying to highlight BlackBerry's embedded QNX software systems, which are used in-vehicle infotainment systems and industrial machines.

BlackBerry's stock rose 9 cents to \$8.19 in midday trading Wednesday. Its shares are up almost 9 percent so far this year. □

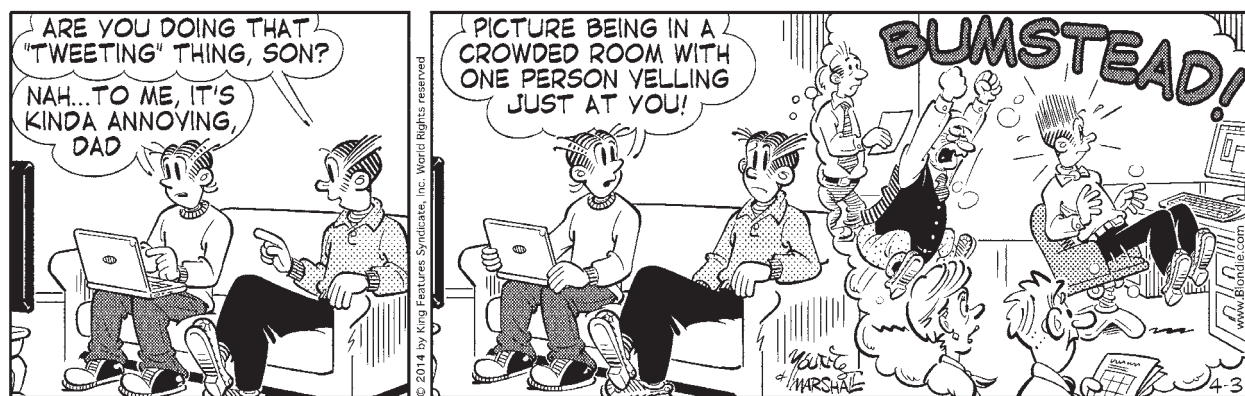
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

		7						
			1	7	5		8	
5		9						
	7		3		4		5	
	6						2	
	1		7		9		6	
						4		6
	4		5	9	3			
						7		

Difficulty Level ★★ ★

4/03

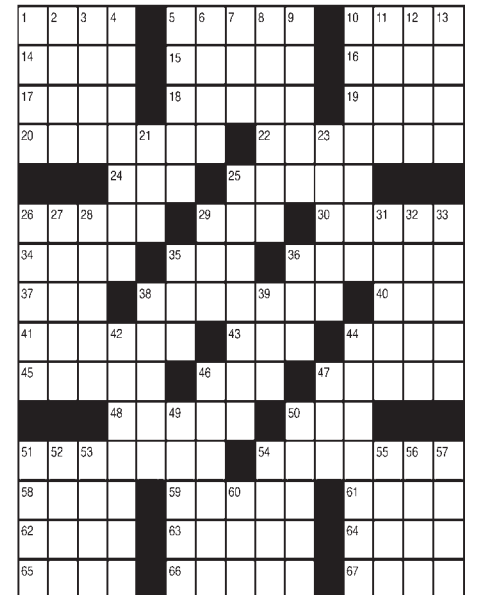
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

2	1	4	3	5	6	9	7	8
8	5	7	9	4	2	6	3	1
6	9	3	8	1	7	5	4	2
3	8	6	4	2	9	7	1	5
5	7	2	1	6	8	3	9	4
9	4	1	5	7	3	2	8	6
1	2	9	7	8	5	4	6	3
4	3	5	6	9	1	8	2	7
7	6	8	2	3	4	1	5	9

ACROSS

- Make gentle
- Actor Stacy
- Pepper grinder
- Mountain goat
- Bird of prey
- Length times width
- Be obliged to
- Raise AKC dogs
- Puts on clothes
- Moral; honest
- Opposed to
- Capture
- out; makes smooth
- Royal decree
- Afternoon hour
- Piers
- Gave for a time
- Man; early video game
- In; refusing to face reality
- First letters
- Eight-armed sea creature
- Uninteresting
- Mischievous no-show
- Curved bone
- Make well
- Deserves
- Quilting party
- Soiled
- Takes out text, for short
- Cry
- Not as tall
- Remembers
- Scoop holder
- Burr or Spelling
- Like sweater weather
- Once more
- Punctures
- Luau dance
- State of clutter
- Cone-shaped home
- In a lazy way



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

4/3/14

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

LUMPS	ATOP	CAPS
APART	MADE	OGRE
POLIO	ONTO	LEAN
SNEERING	PRONTO	
SING	PLASTER	
SETTEE	POEMS	
AVE	SPIES	PACER
REAM	TREED	LOVE
ISLES	ARDOR	AIL
	SPOTS	NEATLY
MASSIVE	LOAN	
ONLINE	PERSISTS	
AGUE	RHEA	OMAHA
TIMS	DEAD	NAVEL
SEPT	OWLS	SLEEK

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4/3/14

DOWN

- On; prompt
- Border on
- Fit together, as machine gears
- Like dodos and dinosaurs
- Shish; bites on a skewer
- British noble
- Grow older
- Chop in two with a big knife
- Row of shrubs
- 4th U.S. president
- Common metal
- Part of the eye
- Final
- Tiger or tabby
- Mountains of South America
- Repeat performances, upon request
- Thrill
- Actress Winger
- Bring upon oneself
- Bit of cereal
- Apple drink
- 24 gold
- In a crafty way
- %; abbr.
- Give a nickname to

- Start
- Dessert choice
- Actress Julie
- Small barbecue
- Bawl out
- One of the Seven Dwarfs
- Minimum
- Good judgment
- Fraud
- Sharpen
- Individuals
- Craft, for one
- Noisy
- Lounge about
- Kill
- Eminem's style

More Americans see middle class status slipping

Continued from Page 6

Roughly 8.4 percent of respondents to the General Social Survey, last conducted in 2012, said they consider themselves lower class. That's the survey's highest percentage ever, up from 5.4 percent in 2006. NORC is a social science research organization at the University of Chicago. Tom Smith, director of the survey, said even slight shifts are significant. Class self-identification "is traditionally one of the most stable measures" in the survey, he said. By contrast to the most recent recession, the severe 1981-82 downturn had little effect on class self-identification in Smith's survey. Why do so many no longer regard themselves as middle class? A key reason is that the recession eliminated 8.7 million jobs. A disproportionate number were middle-income positions. Those losses left what economists describe as a "hollowed out" workforce, with more higher- and lower-paying and

fewer middle-income jobs. Rob McGahen, 30, hasn't yet found a job that paid as well as the purchasing agent position at Boeing's defense division that he left in 2011. Nervous about the sustainability of that job because of government defense cuts, McGahen quit after buying a bar near his St. Louis home. The bar eventually went bankrupt and cost him his house. He and his wife moved to Pensacola, Florida, where he's had little luck finding work in defense contracting. Now, he works in the produce section of a supermarket. His wife earns the bulk of their income as a speech pathologist. Their household income has been cut in half, from \$110,000 to \$55,000, and he and his wife have put off having children. "It's definitely been a step back," McGahen said. Now living in an apartment, he misses the couple's three-bedroom house on a quiet cul-de-sac in a St. Louis suburb. □



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London skeletons reveal secrets of the Black Death

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — You can learn a lot from a tooth.

Molars taken from skeletons unearthed by work on a new London railway line are revealing secrets of the medieval Black Death — and of its victims. This week, Don Walker, an osteologist with the Museum of London, outlined the biography of one man whose ancient bones were found by construction workers under London's Charterhouse Square: He was breast-fed as a baby, moved to London from another part of England, had bad tooth decay in childhood, grew up to work as a laborer, and died in early adulthood from the bubonic plague that ravaged Europe in the 14th century.

The poor man's life was nasty, brutish and short, but his afterlife is long and illuminating.

"It's fantastic we can look in such detail at an individual who died 600 years ago," Walker said. "It's incredible, really."

The 25 skeletons were uncovered last year during work on Crossrail, a new rail line that's boring 13 miles

(21 kilometers) of tunnels under the heart of the city. Archaeologists immediately suspected the bones came from a cemetery for plague victims. The location, outside the walls of

found the presence of the plague bacterium, *Yersinia pestis*, in several of the teeth, meaning the individuals had been exposed to — and likely died from — the Black Death.

the "Great Famine" that struck Europe 30 years before the Black Death. Many had back injuries suggesting lives of hard labor. One man became a vegetarian late in life, indicating

— at first. As the plague ravaged continental Europe — borne westward by fleas on rats — city fathers leased land for an emergency burial ground. The burials were simple

but orderly, the bodies wrapped in shrouds and laid out in neat rows, sealed with a layer of clay.

The later skeletons, however, show more signs of upper-body injuries, consistent with a period of lawlessness and social breakdown.

Archaeologists are planning a new dig this summer to learn how many bodies lie under the square. Carver says the number appears to be in the "low thousands."

And the teeth may not have yielded all their secrets.

Experts in ancient DNA at McMaster University in Canada are working to sequence the plague genome found in the teeth, in order to learn more about a disease that still infects several thousand people a year around the world. Most patients recover if treated early with antibiotics.

Scientists want to know if the 14th-century disease is the same as the modern version, or whether the disease has evolved. Study of DNA from the teeth of skeletons discovered in the 1980s at another London plague cemetery suggested the bug was largely unchanged, but the scientific jury is still out.

Brendan Wren, a professor of molecular biology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said the new information could help scientists "understand how the plague bacillus — and other nasty bugs — become so virulent to humans."

"It is useful information that could warn and avert potential epidemics and pandemics," he said. □



In this Wednesday, March 26, 2014 photo, Don Walker, a human osteologist with the Museum of London, poses for photographers, with one of the skeletons found by construction workers under central London's Charterhouse Square. Associated Press

the medieval city, chimes with historical accounts. The square, once home to a monastery, is one of the few spots in the city to stay undisturbed for centuries. To test their theory, scientists took one tooth from each of 12 skeletons, then extracted DNA from the teeth. They announced Sunday that tests had

The findings didn't stop there. Archaeologists, historians, microbiologists and physicists worked together to apply techniques from several scientific disciplines to the discovery.

Radiocarbon dating and analysis of pottery shards helped determine when the burials took place. Forensic geophysics — more commonly used in murder and war-crimes investigations — helped locate more graves under the square. Studying oxygen and strontium isotopes in the bones revealed details of diet and health.

These were, by and large, poor people. Many of the skeletons showed signs of malnutrition consistent with

he may have entered an order of monks.

Archaeologists were surprised to discover that the skeletons lay in layers and appeared to come from three different periods: the original Black Death epidemic in 1348-1350, and later outbreaks in 1361 and the early 15th century.

"It suggests that the burial ground was used again and again for the burial of plague victims," said Jay Carver, Crossrail's lead archaeologist.

The Black Death is thought to have killed at least 75 million people, including more than half of Britain's population, yet the burials suggest a surprisingly high degree of social order

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Josh Elliott: I wanted to get back to sports



FILE - This Aug. 30, 2012 file image released by ABC shows former "Good Morning America" co-host Josh Elliott on the popular morning show in New York.

Associated Press

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Elliott said Wednesday that his defection from ABC's "Good Morning America" for NBC is a "deeply personal" move to get back to sports at a level he could not have anticipated. He spoke in a conference call where NBC announced his hiring to work on future Olympics, NFL football and other events. He turned down an offer to remain at ABC's top-rated morning show to be what he described as "the last man on the bench with the showtime Lakers." His NBC debut is planned for the May 3 Kentucky Derby broadcast. "I have loved sports since before I could walk," said Elliott, 42. He said he dreamed of being on an Olympics broadcast before he even knew he wanted to be in television. He worked at Sports Illustrated and then ESPN before 2011 when ABC News President Ben Sherwood played a hunch and hired him as news anchor at "Good Morning America." The arrival of Elliott and Lara Spencer built a feel-good team in the morning that prospered as "Today" went through the excruciating exit of Ann Curry. Now two members of that team — Elliott and weath-

er forecaster Sam Champion — have left within four months of each other. Elliott said he had not discussed any role at NBC News, where it was almost immediately speculated that he could be a potential successor to Matt Lauer in the morning. "I hope Matt Lauer is here when I step away from this gig 30 years down the road," he said. The fallout of his decision, made public Sunday, has been painful and left him feeling like a bit player in an "absurdist melodrama." "It has been really difficult," he said. "It's been difficult to read categorical falsehood after categorical falsehood." He credited Sherwood with giving him the big break in his career. He wouldn't comment on Sherwood's memo to ABC News employees announcing his departure this weekend, where Sherwood wrote that "we worked hard to close a significant gap between our generous offer and his expectations." Sherwood "is and always will be the reason I'm here," Elliott said. "I will forever love him deeply and passionately for it." ABC said there will likely be a taped tribute to Elliott on "Good Morning America," but it won't include a live appearance by him. □

Michael Strahan to join 'Good Morning America' part-time

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — Talk-show host and former football star Michael Strahan is coyly talking about, but not confirming, reports that he's expected to soon join the cast of ABC's "Good Morning America" on a part-time basis. Strahan was asked by co-host Kelly Ripa on "Live With Kelly and Michael" Wednesday if he was doing it, and Strahan replied: "I don't know. If I read the papers I am."

A person with knowledge of the negotiations who requested anonymity because the deal hasn't been completed said Tuesday that Strahan will work semi-regularly during the show's first hour. He will continue as host of the daytime talker "Live With Kelly and Michael." "Good Morning America" has lost two male cast



This Oct. 28, 2013 file photo shows former professional football player Michael Strahan, co-host of "Live with Kelly and Michael," attending the 23rd Annual Broadcasting & Cable Hall of Fame Awards in New York.

Associated Press

members in the past four months: Sam Champion to The Weather Channel and Josh Elliott to NBC Sports, the latter in a deal expected to be formally announced Wednesday. Talks with Strahan reportedly predate Elliott's de-

parture, announced Sunday. Strahan would join George Stephanopoulos, Robin Roberts, Amy Robach, Lara Spencer and weather forecaster Ginger Zee on the cast of television's top-rated morning show. □

NBC asks Gifford not to plug her wine on 'Today'



This Sept. 4, 2013 photo released by NBC shows co-hosts Hoda Kotb, left, and Kathie Lee Gifford on the fourth hour of the "Today" show in New York.

Associated Press

LAURI NEFF
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Booze may be an oft-mentioned topic when Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb are hosting the fourth hour of the "Today" show, but one alcoholic beverage they won't be talking about is Gifford's new wine line.

In an interview Tuesday, Gifford said NBC has asked her not to plug her new Gifford chardonnay and red blend on the show. "They let me announce it and then they've asked us to please not discuss it right now," Gifford said. "We're in the middle of the big takeover of a major cor-

poration. I think they just want to be — and rightfully so — very careful. Everybody wants to dot i's and cross t's and you notice the wine is still sitting there but they've just asked me to be a little careful while they're under great scrutiny and I'm happy to do that." A representative for "Today" said, "We love and support Kathie Lee and as always, we let her comments speak for themselves." NBC's owner, Comcast Corp., says it wants to buy Time Warner Cable Inc. If the deal is approved it would combine the nation's two top cable companies and create a dominant force in both creating and delivering entertainment. Gifford and Kotb talked about the wines on "Today" last month, but on Monday's show. □

Karen Fowler novel wins PEN/Faulkner prize

NEW YORK (AP) — A novel about a 1970s Midwestern family with a most unusual sibling, Karen Fowler's "We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves," has won the PEN/Faulkner prize for fiction. The \$15,000 award was announced Wednesday by the directors of the PEN/Faulkner Foundation, Susan Richards Shreve and Robert



This photo provided by Penguin Group US shows author, Karen Joy Fowler.

Associated Press

Stone.

The other four finalists, Daniel Alarcon, Percival Everett, Valerie Trueblood and Joan Silber, each receive \$5,000. Fowler is best known for her novel "The Jane Austen Book Club." Previous PEN/Faulkner winners include Philip Roth, Ann Patchett and Sherman Alexie. □

Peabody Awards given to record 46 recipients

ATHENS, Georgia (AP) — The ABC drama "Scandal," Netflix's "House of Cards" and pair of news programs about concussions in the National Football League are among a record 46 recipients of Peabody Awards.

The winners were chosen by the board of the George Foster Peabody Awards at the University of Georgia as the "best in electronic media for 2013." They were announced Wednesday by Peabody Award-winning journalists Ira Glass and Charlayne Hunter-Gault on "CBS This Morning."

The PBS show "Frontline" won for "League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis" and ESPN's "Outside the Lines" won for its piece, "NFL at a Crossroads: Investigating a Health Crisis."

Broadcast news outlets receiving Peabody Awards included WBZ-TV and WBZ Newsradio in Boston for their extended coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings and the hunt for suspects. Also winning awards were KING-TV in Seattle, WTVF-TV in Nashville, and New Orleans outlets WVUE-TV, The Times-Picayune and NOLA.com.

Online award winners included the YouTube video "A Needed Response," which was created by two University of Oregon students to promote respect for women.

Internationally, winners included "Burka Avenger," an animated Pakistani series aimed at empowering girls.

"The quality of storytelling in electronic media continues to increase year-after-year, across platforms, producing organizations and nations," Jeffrey P. Jones, director of the Peabody Awards, said in a statement. "The unprecedented number of awards we gave this year reflects this fact."

The Peabody awards will be formally presented May 19 at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City. □

'Captain America' superhero role 'epic' for Anthony Mackie



In this Wednesday, March 12, 2014 photo, Anthony Mackie, a cast member in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," poses for a portrait in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Associated Press

JESSICA HERNDON
AP Film Writer

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — For Anthony Mackie, landing the role of the Falcon in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" meant more than inking his dream deal with Marvel.

"When I heard I got the role I broke down in tears," said Mackie in a recent interview. "I realized two years from that date some little brown boy was going to be at my door in a Falcon costume on Halloween. When I was a kid I didn't have that. It wasn't like I could get asked, 'Who do you want to be for Halloween?' and say Shaft. Being the Falcon is monumental."

Working with Marvel has been a longtime goal for Mackie, though he imagined playing a villain, not a superhero. "I wanted to be like the Joker and get my Heath Ledger on," he said. "I would send Marvel an email, like every four to five months. I was calling saying, 'I'll work for free.' About two years ago they sent me a letter saying, 'Don't call us, we'll call you.' I was like 'Damn — Marvel mad at me.'"

Roughly six months before filming began on "The Winter Soldier" in April 2013, directors Anthony and Joe

Russo offered Mackie a role in the comic-book adaptation.

"It was epic," recalls Mackie, who admits he didn't know much about the character Sam Wilson, who becomes the Falcon, one of the first African-American superheroes in a mainstream comic.

"I read up on him and immediately got into the gym," he added with a laugh. "I thought if I am wearing that much spandex I have to be in shape." When "The Winter Soldier" hits theaters Friday, it will likely become the role for which the 35-year-old Mackie is most known. But it was his portrayal of a bomb disposal team sergeant in Kathryn Bigelow's Oscar-winning war thriller "The Hurt Locker" that paved the way for mainstream success.

"Both his roles in 'Half Nelson' and 'The Hurt Locker' showed him to be an actor of real weight," said "Winter Soldier" executive producer Nate Moore. "When we were looking to cast the role of Sam Wilson, we knew we wanted an actor who would feel like an equal to Steve Rogers (Chris Evans). We'd kicked some names back and forth, but none of the names ever rose above

the first we discussed — Anthony Mackie. Once we met Anthony in person, we were sold. He charmed us." Growing up in New Orleans, acting was the last thing on Mackie's mind. The self-professed troublemaker said he probably would have been on Ritalin in today's world. "But I had this great teacher who introduced me to Shakespeare, which opened my eyes to a different idea of who I could be."

He suffered a blow at 15, when his mother died. Mackie's inheritance after his mother's estate was split among him and his five siblings was \$550. He used \$542 to travel to New York to audition for Juilliard — and got in. "It confirmed to me that I had the ability to do this and make a living at it," he recalled. It also offered him the chance to turn his anger into positive energy after her death.

"The greatest blessing that she could have given me was letting me become my own man," he said. "Once I got into school everything took off."

While at Juilliard, he was cast in Eminem hit biopic "8 Mile." Since then, he's appeared in over 30 movies, from indie flicks to big budget, all-star films. □

Follow the Money



THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN
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If you follow the debates about Ukraine, you can see three trends: those who use the crisis for humor, those who use it to reinforce preconceived views and those trying to figure out if it's telling us something new about today's world.

For humor, I like Seth Meyers' line: "Despite the fact that the Ukraine has been all over the news for the past few weeks, a survey found that 64 percent of U.S. students still couldn't find Ukraine on a map. Said Vladimir Putin, 'Soon nobody will.'"

For self-reinforcement, the op-ed pages are full of the argument that Putin's seizure of Crimea signals a return of either traditional 19th-century power politics or the Cold War - and anyone who thought globalization had trumped such geopolitics is naïve.

For new thinking, I'm intrigued by an argument made by Masha Gessen, a Russian-American journalist, and Nader Mousavizadeh, a geopolitical consultant and Reuters columnist, in different ways: That Putin represents a new hybrid - leaders who are using the tools, and profits, from globalization to promote, as Mousavizadeh put it, "strategic choices in direct opposition" to Western "values and interests." Or as Gessen said in The Washington Post: "Russia is remaking itself as the leader of the anti-Western world. ... This is exactly how Russians see the events in Ukraine: The West is literally taking over, and only Russian troops can stand between the Slavic country's unsuspecting citizens and the homosexuals marching in from Brussels."

My own view is that today's global economic and technological interdependence can't, of course, make war obsolete - human beings will always surprise you - but globalization does impose real restraints that shape geopolitics today more than you think. The Associated Press reported from Moscow last week that "recent figures suggest that Russia suffered roughly \$70 billion of capital outflow in the first three months of the year, which is more than in all of 2013." Putin didn't miss that.

For reinforcement, I'd point to the very original take on this story offered by Michael Mandelbaum, the Johns Hopkins foreign policy expert whose new book, "The Road to Global Prosperity," argues that while global economics does not eliminate geopolitics, it does indeed trump global geopolitics today. It's the

key to trumping Putin, too.

As Mandelbaum (my co-author on a previous work) explains in his book, it is not either-or. Geopolitics never went away, even as globalization has become more important. For globalization to thrive, it needs a marketplace stabilized by power. Britain provided that in the 19th century. America does so today and will have to continue to do so even if Putin becomes a vegetarian pacifist.

But get a grip, Mandelbaum said in an interview: "Putin is not some strange creature from the past. He is as much a product of globalization as Davos Man."

Putin runs a petro state. If it were not for the growth in the global market that globalization created and the energy revenues that it produces for Russia, Putin and the oligarchs who form his power base would be living off exports of vodka and caviar. Putin can't survive without the revenues globalization provides him to buy off his people and former Soviet republics.

And that tells us how to "end Putinism," says Mandelbaum, "which would be good not only for the world, but also, and especially, for Russia. The tools are primarily economic: denying Russian oligarchs access to the Western financial system and reducing the energy revenues flowing into Putin's coffers."

It is a new kind of containment. When containment was primarily military in the Cold War, America bore a disproportionate share of the Western burden. Now that it's economic, "the Europeans will have to contribute much more," argues Mandelbaum. "The Germans will have to be willing to forgo their sales of machine tools and cars to Russia, the French will have to cut back or give up arms sales to the Putin regime, and the British will have to stop the Russian oligarchs from using London as a playground and money-laundering site. Most importantly, the Europeans will have to wean themselves from Russian gas."

As for Americans, we'll need to pay higher energy taxes to promote conservation, and safely expand natural gas and renewable energy, which together will lower the demand for oil worldwide and reduce the money Putin has to play with. We can deflate this guy tomorrow without firing a shot if we're all ready to do something rather than asking the 1 percent in the military to do everything. That is what Putin thinks we don't have the guts to do. "In the age of globalization, when the tools of geopolitics are more economic, everyone needs to sacrifice a little - rather than just a few of us giving up a lot - to sustain a global order where our values predominate," said Mandelbaum. Crimea is not a test of whether globalization is still enormously powerful in shaping today's world, he added, "that is already clear. It is a test of the West and whether we will use this system to shape events our way." □



A Step Toward Justice in College Sports?



JOE NOCERA
© 2014 New York Times

If you were going to hold up a school as being exemplary in the way it puts athletics in, as they say, "the proper perspective," Northwestern University would certainly be one you'd point to. For instance, although it lacks the kind of winning tradition - at least in the big-time sports - that other schools in the Big Ten can boast of, it proudly points to the 97 percent graduation rate of its athletes.

Yet buried in last week's decision by Peter Sung Ohr, the regional director of the National Labor Relations Board - in which he said that the Northwestern football team had the right to form a union - was this anecdote about Kain Colter, the former Northwestern quarterback who is leading the union effort. In his sophomore year, dreaming of going to medical school someday, Colter "attempted to take a required chemistry course." However, "his coaches and advisors discouraged him from taking the course because it conflicted with morning football practices."

Eventually, after falling behind other pre-med students, he wound up switching his major to psychology, "which he believed to be less demanding," according to Ohr.

Ohr's essential point was that un-

like the rest of the student body at Northwestern, football players had little control over their lives. Their schedules were dictated by the needs of the football team. They had bosses in the form of coaches and other university officials who could fire them. They had to abide by a million petty NCAA rules, and they lacked many of the freedoms and rights taken for granted by students who didn't play sports.

They put in up to 50-hours a week at their sport - vastly more than is supposedly allowed under NCAA rules. But then, every school finds ways to evade those rules, whether they have athletics "in perspective" or not.

Anyone who cares about justice had to be encouraged by Ohr's ruling. In outlining the many ways that Northwestern's football players were primarily employees of the university, recruited to the campus to generate revenue, Ohr ignored the idyllic myth of the "student-athlete" and dealt in cold, hard facts. ("Student-athlete," it's worth remembering, is a phrase invented by the NCAA in the 1950s precisely to avoid having to grant workers' compensation to injured college football players on the grounds that they fit the classic definition of employees.)

Having said that, it seems to me that both the fans and the critics of Ohr's decision have been getting a little ahead of themselves. It is only one team at one school, and while I hear reliably that other teams at other schools are investigating the possibility of forming a union, we are years away from knowing whether a union would necessarily mean that players are eventually paid (as proponents hope) or that their scholarships will be taxed (as critics warn). Given the NCAA's fierce resistance to anything that might dilute its power - or worse, give power to the athletes themselves - it is a certainty that Ohr's decision will wind up in a federal appeals court.

The buzz over the union effort has also had the effect, at least temporarily, of distracting attention from other efforts that have the potential to upend the system even more radically. One is a class-action lawsuit that has been active for several years now, the O'Bannon case, named for Ed O'Bannon, the former UCLA basketball star. Although ostensibly about the licensing and image rights of former college athletes, it is aimed directly at the heart of "amateurism" that is the central rationale of the NCAA's refusal to consider paying players anything beyond their scholarships.

Already, I'm told, the legal team driving the case is devising the means to pay players royalties and other compensation, which they will undoubtedly propose to the judge, assuming it goes to trial.

Meanwhile, lawyers on both coasts have recently filed straightforward antitrust class-action suits against the NCAA, arguing that universities and the NCAA simply lack the legal right to cap players' compensation.

When I asked Jeffrey Kessler, a New York lawyer who has spent years representing professional athletes, why he had taken on this case, he replied, "Our sense is that the world has changed so radically in college sports that even the most casual observers recognize that this is not amateurism. This is a gigantic business."

Maybe that is what the Ohr decision really represents: a government acknowledgment that college sports is not what it once was and that no amount of NCAA propaganda can hide the money-soaked reality anymore. If judges come to these upcoming cases with the same lack of blinders that Ohr showed last week - if they view the cases strictly through the prism of the law rather than the gauzy sheen of amateurism - well, then, a union will be the least of the NCAA's worries. □

Billion-Dollar Bracelet is Key to Disney's Magical Kingdom

BROOKS BARNES

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ORLANDO, Fla. - Walt Disney World has spent more than a year rolling out a \$1 billion system that changes how visitors do everything from enter their hotel rooms to ride Space Mountain. But a few weeks ago a front desk agent at one of Disney's marquee hotels was still wrestling with the technology.

"Behave, you naughty thing," a Wilderness Lodge reservations clerk mut-

Disney has been vague about when investors can expect returns - to the frustration of a few analysts - but there are signals that the system is finally ready to roll. As it prepares for the peak summer season, Disney recently started to market the service with national TV ads and quirky online videos. On Monday, Disney began allowing all visitors to use the system; previously, only Disney hotel guests and annual pass holders had access.

"We are pretty transparently upping our promise to our guests, and that is why we're being so deliberate about this test-and-adjust period," said Thomas O. Staggs, Disney's parks and resorts chairman. "Delight turns very quickly to expectation." He added: "Certain things have taken longer to make broadly available than we initially would have liked, but our rollout was designed to be flexible to ensure that the guest experience was al-

it thinks preplanning is one answer. Disney guests will be urged to use a website called My Disney Experience to begin locking in the particulars of their visits long before leaving for Orlando. (Adjustments can be made during the visit using a related smartphone app.)

If Disney gets it right, the smartband technology could ripple through the leisure industry to other parks or even zoos, museums and Las Vegas resorts. And

The technology allowed Disney to accommodate 3,000 additional daily guests at its Magic Kingdom park over Christmas. Staggs said use of the new FastPass reservation system has increased 40 percent over the old one, freeing people from standing in line and increasing the number of experiences they have there.

Still, investors have been keenly waiting for financial evidence that the \$1 billion investment is paying off. Disney's parks business has lately been a good one - operating profit climbed 17 percent last year, to \$2.33 billion - but the company's spending on the project has dented margins at its flagship property in Orlando. Underscoring its importance to the company, analysts have peppered Disney executives with questions about the system in recent conference calls.

"We have a positive view of the project, and technology this complex always takes longer than you expect to roll out," said Michael Nathanson, an analyst at the research firm MoffettNathanson. "But we're still trying to figure out how to measure the return on what is a rather large investment. That's where the frustration is."

Robert A. Iger, Disney's chief executive, has encouraged patience. "This is still a very new product, so we are not even close to being able to quantify it," he told analysts in February. Disney has been typically tight-lipped about details of the project, and the dearth of information has allowed rumors to flourish. Coursing through the many blogs that track Disney's parks are reports that the new system is over-budget. Some armchair analysts have speculated that Jack Dorsey, a Twitter co-founder and chief executive of Square, the mobile payments company, recently joined the Disney board to offer MagicBand help. Seated in his office at Disney headquarters in Burbank, Calif., a smiling Staggs dismissed such chatter. □



A guest accesses her reservation at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge using her MagicBand in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., March 28, 2014. Disney has spent more than a year rolling out the multifaceted smartband system that changes how visitors do everything from enter their hotel rooms to skip a wait in line for a ride, but it has taken longer to introduce than expected due to an array of daunting complexities.
(Gregg Matthews/The New York Times)

tered at the malfunctioning management system. Scolding didn't work, but a computer reboot finally did. So it has gone with MyMagic+, an ambitious effort to make Disney World more profitable by making its 30 million annual visitors happier. The multifaceted system has taken longer to introduce than expected as Disney has confronted an array of daunting complexities: training 70,000 employees, equipping 28,000 hotel room doors with radio frequency readers, prompting guests to wear data-collecting electronic wristbands.

Among other perks, the system provides a service called FastPass+, which allows visitors to prebook front-of-the-line access to three rides, parades or character meet-and-greets. The system also strives to make it easier for guests to buy food and merchandise - just stand at the register and swipe your wristband, called a MagicBand, which also functions as room key, park ticket and VIP access. Disney thinks people will spend more money and time at the 40-square mile megaresort if they find it easier to navigate.

ways our first priority."

For Disney, a \$143 billion entertainment conglomerate, the new system is one of its most important initiatives in years. Aside from the project's sheer scale, theme parks have emerged as a growth business even in a bumpy economy, and Disney feels an urgency to use technology to improve its offerings, particularly as younger consumers come to demand it.

Disney wants to keep people from visiting competing Central Florida parks, including Comcast's Universal Orlando Resort, and

there is an added element of pressure for Staggs. Disney is set to name a new chief executive in 2016, and he is one of several leading candidates. Successfully completing the project would be an important feather in his cap. Staggs said that about 3 1/2 million people had participated in tests of the new system, adding that the early feedback had been "fantastic." Among the findings: Because guests no longer have to present paper tickets at turnstiles, the system has reduced the park entry time by 25 percent.